Daily Report

Latin America

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Cuba

Reportage on Protest at Residence in Panama

Civic Crusade Calls for Protest

FL1501225090 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2232 GMT 15 Jan 90

[Text] Our country's Foreign Ministry [MINREX] announced today that a Yankee provocation is being organized against the residence of the Cuban ambassador to Panama, which has been subjected to pressures by the invader troops since last December. MINREX noted that the pro-U.S. Civic Crusade is calling for a demonstration this afternoon in front of the residence of Lazaro Mora, chief of the Cuban diplomatic mission. Several Panamanians continue to seek refuge in this residence.

The Cuban representative to Panama characterized the plan as a provocative act and reiterated that, with such a decision, Washington is trying to evade responsibilities on possible incidents that could take place. Mora said the Yankee army discontinued the military siege placed around his residence in the isthmian capital at the same time the anti-Cuban demonstration was being summoned.

Rocks, Coconuts Thrown

FL1501190590 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 15 Jan 90

[Telephone report by Nelson Notario Castro]

[Text] Late afternoon yesterday approximately 60 people carried out provocations in front of the residence of the Cuban Ambassador, Comrade Lazaro Mora, where a group of Panamanian political refugees are awaiting safe conduct to leave the country.

The demonstrators threw rocks, coconuts, and other objects over the wall that surrounds the residence. They also called for a demonstration today, Monday, at that same place—in front of the wall where they wrote offensive phrases against the Cuban revolution on Sunday. [Word indistinct] of our country's embassy here believe that this provocation was only possible with the cooperation given to the demonstrators by the U.S. soldiers, who maintain strict control over all the persons who go on that street. It was only with the permission of the U.S. troops that the demonstrators were able to get close to the main gate of the ambassador's residence. They (?wrote) on the wall and used megaphones to offend the Panamanian political refugees and Cuban diplomats.

Ambassador to Panama Comments

FL1601005390 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0007 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Telephone interview with Ambassador to Panama Lazaro Mora by Nancy Aime during "Exclusivo" newscast—live]

[Text] [Mora] A demonstration is going on here. It is organized by the Civic Crusade people. They arrived here in front of the residence and next to the fence. There are more or less between 60 and 80 people.

The U.S. forces were here yesterday. They had backup troops at the two ends of the street and others in front of the door [words indistinct]. The summons [for the protest] began yesterday for this afternoon. The Civic Crusade made a call over the radio urging the people to come and protest in front of the Cuban Embassy.... [corrects himself] in front of the residence and gave the address. They want to demand that our government hand over the asylum-seekers.

This morning, we realized things had changed—that the Americans had left and that over 20 U.S. soldiers had been replaced by 5 members of the so-called Panamanian Public Force. It is not that we want the Americans to be here, because we do not want them here and we do not want them in Panama. However, the coincidence of the organization of a protest demonstration around our residence with the withdrawal of the U.S. forces caught our attention.

This is why we warned that a possible provocation could take place. The fact of the matter is that there are people outside. They are banging pots, shouting slogans, calling the asylum-seekers here to go out and respond to the alleged charges being made against them. Up to this moment, we cannot say that there is a marked aggressiveness against us, against the Cuban diplomatic personnel.

About a half an hour ago, a combat vehicle arrived, one of those American [words indistinct]. It is also out there. So far, they have not thrown stones or any other missiles at the building. We are here—firm, calm, and vigilant.

[Aime, interrupting] Lazaro...

[Mora, interrupting] [Words indistinct] the night falls within half an hour....

[Aime, interrupting] How many people, more or less, are demonstrating at this time?

[Mora] At this time, there could be some 70 people. I believe the attendance is much less than what the organizers expected.

[Aime] The response has not been as they expected in spite of all the calls they have made?

[Mora] No. I do not believe it has turned out as they expected.

[Aime] Thank you very much Comrade Lazaro Mora, our ambassador to Panama, for your participation in Radio Rebelde's "Exclusivo" newscast.

Czechoslovakia Protests Expulsion of Reporter

PA1401040490 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0218 GMT 14 Jan 90

[Text] Havana, 13 Jan (EFE)—Sources from the Czechoslovak Embassy in Havana told EFE today that the Czechoslovak Government has formally protested the explusion from Cuba of Radio Prague's correspondent Michael Zermack.

The source told EFE that the protest, which was sent by the Czechoslovak Foreign Ministry to the Cuban charge d'affaires in that country, stated that the expulsion of Radio Prague's corrrespondent for Latin America is against the free exchange of information.

A second point in the protest was that the expulsion is not in line with the current relations between the two countries, the spokesman added.

Zermack, who was notified on 11 January that he must leave the country, is the first correspondent from a socialist country who has been expelled from Cuba for reasons related to his reporting. Zermack himself told EFE today that he is well and getting ready to leave.

He added that at his request the Cuban Foreign Ministry extended by 24 hours his deadline to leave the country, which originally had been set for 16 January and now has been extended until 17 January.

Zermack will not return to Prague from Havana. Instead, he will travel directly to Buenos Aires, where Radio Prague has decided to install its main office for Latin America instead of appointing another correspondent in Havana to replace him.

The installation of Radio Prague's office in Buenos Aires definitely depends on the Argentine authorities. However, Zermack told EFE today: "I understand that Radio Prague's director has already met with Argentine diplomatic representatives in Czechoslovakia to discuss the matter."

Zermack, 43, who is married and has a 14-year-old son, will travel to Buenos Aires alone on 17 January. His family members were given 10 days—until 21 January—to leave the country and will follow him after settling some matters in Cuba.

The report that prompted Zermack's expulsion was transmitted by Radio Prague on 8 January. He told EFE that it consisted of an evaluation of the current difficult economic situation Cuba is facing.

In addition, Zermack compared the curent events in Czechoslovakia and Romania with what could happen in Cuba and said that Cuba's economic situation could worsen as a result of the changes taking place in the East.

Zermack added: I said that I personally thought that Cuba was experiencing the calm before the storm.

Zermack's report was constantly repeated in Spanish by Radio Marti, the U.S. radio station beamed to Cuba.

Hector Argiles, director of the International Press Center (CPI), told EFE that the Cuban authorities viewed the information as unrealistic and imprecise.

The Cuban daily GRANMA, the official mouthpiece of the Communist Party of Cuba (PCC), commented on the case in a brief report published on its second page entitled "A Correspondent's Transfiguration."

GRANMA said that Zermack's article tried to establish a comparison between the current situation in East Europe from a premeditated and distorted viewpoint "with the intention of intentionally portraying Cuba as a country on the verge of a crisis."

The Cuban daily said that what is novel about the case is that the "worm station" (as it calls Radio Marti) this time only repeated the information transmitted by the Czechoslovak station, and that with his expulsion, Zermack will now have the opportunity to work directly for the counterrevolutionary station.

Zermack is the fifth journalist who has been asked to leave Cuba in the past 5 years, although the previous four were from capitalist countries who worked for the Western media.

They were Andre Birukofk of AFP, expelled in June 1985; Robert Powerll of REUTER and Noel Lonthiois of AFP expelled in September 1986; and Gilles Trequeseurs of Reuters expelled in July 1989.

Further on Gorbachev's Visit to Lithuania

FL1301171790 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1400 GMT 13 Jan 90

[Text] Top Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, who ends his visit to Lithuania today, said there that none of the republics composing the USSR can now live without the others. Gorbachev warned the Lithuanians of the danger it would represent to any state to alter the Helsinki Act, which established the inviolability of the European borders.

After noting that another approach would bring unpredictable consequences, he asserted that sovereignty needs to be granted to the republics and the competence of the Soviet Union and the republics in the political area needs to be defined to the greatest extent possible.

Gorbachev chatted with Lithuanian workers and said the renovation processes currently being carried out in the USSR have acquired an agitated character and are accompanied by painful phenomena.

The Soviet president also announced that a bill has already been prepared to regulate the exercise of the right of separation by any republic interested in leaving the federation.

Soviet Official Views Socialist Ideas

FL1301191790 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 13 Jan 90

[Interview with Lieutenant General Vladimir Shatalov by Moscow correspondent Ismael Tantau; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Tantau] The chief of USSR's cosmonauts training program has revealed to this correspondent his positive view of our commander in chief's 7 December speech. Specifically, he said the following about the future.

[Shatalov, in Russian with simultaneous Spanish translation] It is impossible to return to capitalism, to the exploitation of man by man. Socialist ideas will never allow exploitation either in developed or Third World countries. It will not allow some people to pressure others or some countries to pressure others. The country that attempts to build their happiness by making other countries unhappy cannot be happy.

Soto Meets With Bulgaria's Stanishev

FL1301164490 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1400 GMT 13 Jan 90

[Text] Lionel Soto, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Secretariat, has met in Sofia with Dimitur Stanishev, candidate member of the Bulgarian Communist Party Politburo, with whom he discussed current subjects on socialism.

Official Cuban sources reported that during the meeting there was an exchange of information on the process of renovation and defense of socialism in Bulgaria as well as on the rectification of mistakes in the economy and society and the successful construction of socialism in Cuba. Soto and Stanishev noted the dangers of the imperialist enemy's campaign against socialism.

Lionel Soto participated in the 45th CEMA meeting held in Sofia this week.

Nicaragua's Ramirez Discusses Upcoming Elections

FL1201202390 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 12 Jan 90

["Exclusive" interview with Nicaraguan Vice President Sergio Ramirez by correspondent Diosdado Mazo in Managua, Nicaragua; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Mazo] Dr Ramirez, the National Opposition Union [UNO] has increasingly less support among the Nicaraguan people, but it has greater financing and support from the U.S. Government.

[Ramirez] Here in Nicaragua we are engaged in a very peculiar electoral campaign against a political force that is directed and financed by the U.S. Government. This is why President Ortega has time and again stated that the two competitors in this election are Nicaragua and the United States. We cannot overlook the fact that the UNO leaders and activists are on the U.S. payroll, that they have salaries in dollars, that is, the fact that they are receiving funds from the same source—the United States—that is financing the criminal war waged by the contras.

Thus, this will not be just another election: It will be an election in which the proposal of our revolution— which is a proposal for peace, democracy, freedom and a promising future—will confront another one that seeks to turn back the clock of history, that seeks to restore the oppression we had endured before, that is, a government by a few millionaires and bankers who controlled the most nefarious and selfish interests we had had in the country.

[Mazo] Dr Ramirez, U.S. aircraft carriers are at present in Caribbean waters near Central America. It has been reported that they will be monitoring the Nicaraguan election here on 25 February. Isn't the Nicaraguan Government concerned about this?

[Ramirez] We have to raise our voice of protest against that. The United States cannot be legally considered an international police force. The United States has always sought to police the world since 1910, or even since 1898, that is, since the Spanish-American war over Cuba, when it started to adopt this policy. What we can see now is a serious stagnation of the mentality and political will of the United States, which has just done in Panama what it did in Cuba, in Nicaragua in 1910, in Honduras, in the Philippines, and in all those places where U.S. interventionist forces were deployed.

Havana Vows To Defeat TV Marti Project

FL1201193290 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Text] Our revolution has expressed more than once its categorical rejection of the American project of beaming television broadcasts to our country. Cuba has said that it will take whatever measures it considers appropriate in order to counteract such a disastrous precedent. We have tried to persuade the U.S. Government to put an end to its project. No one in Cuba wants this situation to lead to a crisis.

However, there are influential people who misinterpret Cuba's position. They have hold of the wrong end of the stick. They cannot tell their left hand from their right. If Cuba is categorically opposed to this project, it is not because it shies away from the challenge involved, but because of how harmful it is to our sovereignty. No one knows better than the U.S. that the policy of the Cuban revolution has never been one of asepsis, but of struggle.

Fidel himself has taught us that authentic revolutionaries are not forged under glass, but in combat. For more than 3 decades we have accepted the U.S. challenge in all areas, including ideology. We have accepted it and met it, and we will continue to do so.

However, we find ourselves faced with a very different type of case. This time there is an attack on our sovereignty, a violation of the norms that should govern relations between nations, a refusal to recognize our right as a country, and Cuba cannot let such an outrage pass.

Furthermore, we are not afraid. All authentic revolutions have always had their proponents and their detractors, and even their traitors. Here, imperialist ideology cannot win over more minds than those that have already been won over. We would be in a bad way if the revolution's existence depended on what the dirty propaganda of a miserable worm television station might or might not say. Whatever the future may hold, we will know how to confront it and defeat it.

Reports Confirm Capture of 6 Cubans in Ethiopia

FL1301160690 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1400 GMT 13 Jan 90

[Text] International news agencies have confirmed that the Ethiopian opposition group, Oromo Liberation Front [OLF], has captured six Cubans who composed a medical assistance team working in the town of Asosa, 27 km from the Ethiopian-Sudanese border. This report, monitored by a Nairobi, Kenya radio station, rectifies another one made by the same source asserting that four Cubans had been captured. It confirms that the group is composed of six Cubans.

The team of Cuban specialists was providing services to the above-mentioned town, which was taken over by Sudanese National Army forces and the antigovernment OLF.

As it is known, the Cuban Government contacted the International Red Cross and Husni Mubarak, acting chairman of the OAU, and asked them to make efforts to preserve the lives of the members of the Cuban medical team. The International Red Cross has been receptive to the Cuban request and quickly began to work on the appropriate procedures.

Role of Namibia in Southern Africa Viewed

FL1301135590 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1255 GMT 13 Jan 90

["Our Opinion" commentary read by Rafael Berastegui]

[Text] In spite of the complex international situation, which makes it imperative to moderate one's optimism in the permanent and immediate solution of the crisis in southern Africa, Namibians are taking firm steps on the road toward independence.

This weekend, the Legislative Assembly is holding the last discussion of the bill creating the republic which includes the aspirations of the main political forces in the country. In previous discussions, the Southwest African People's Organization, SWAPO, which controls 41 of the 72 assembly seats, was able to maintain the spirit of national reconciliation and, at the same time, neutralize proposals that could threaten the nation's future.

In this way, it is expected that the fundamental law will contemplate an executive power with broad prerogatives for the president and a proportional elections system that grants parliamentary representation in accordance to the total of votes obtained by each party. Also, the constitution will reject racial, sexual, religious, or tribal discrimination and will establish obligatory education up to age 16, the right to organize labor unions, and a broad social assistance program.

Nevertheless, the multiparty Namibian state will have extraordinary challenges such as the vindication of the port and areas surrounding the strategic Walvis Bay, illegally occupied by South Africa, and the economic autonomy after over a century of open colonial dependency.

Within Namibian borders, while Frederik W. de Klerk's South African Government attempts to find ways to preserve the essence of the apartheid system, the pacification of the People's Republic of Angola is blocked by the U.S.-backed counterrevolutionary organization, National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA]. UNITA attacks on People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola positions and the indefinite postponement of the meeting of eight African leaders, who had been scheduled to meet last Monday in Luanda and analyze the situation in the country, are reasons for concern.

The Angolan-Cuban victory over South Africa in Cuito Cuanavale helped in 1988 to create objective conditions for the implementation of UN Security Council's Resolution 435 and Namibia's independence. Independent Namibia, member No 160 of the United Nations and No 52 of the OAU, can make the decisive turn in the correlation of political forces that can consolidate peace with justice in southern Africa.

Castro Present at Scientific Award Ceremony

FL1601015090 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0128 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] The Carlos J. Finlay Order award ceremony is taking place at this time at the Palace of Conventions with Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, in attendance. The ceremony is the closing activity marking the science [word indistinct] day.

The Carlos J. Finlay Order created by the Council of State is being conferred to outstanding scientific organizations and prominent personalities involved in research and technical work.

Cuba occupies a distinguished place in the world because of the number of scientists and engineers it has per million inhabitants and because of the strong labor and young people's movement linked to scientific and technical work. This movement is [words indistinct] by the National Association of Innovators and Efficiency Experts and the Technical Youth Brigades.

Inspection Team Continues Work in Cienfuegos

FL1301030290 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 13 Jan 90

[Text] The defense-related tasks in the five provinces that compose the Central Army continue being inspected for the third day in a row.

The national inspection team today continued its work in Cienfuegos Province as part of the inspection that is being carried out throughout the territory of the Central Army. Division General Sixto Batista Santana, chief of the Military Department of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee and secretary of the party, visited a large unit of the Cuban Revolutionary Navy where he observed a ship's crew call to general quarters.

As part of his tour, Batista also visited the provincial defense training school, and a unit of the Revolutionary Air Force where he was able to check its combat readiness as well as its installations for the preparation and maintenance of combat technology.

Sixto Batista was accompanied by Brigade General Urbelino Betancourt, from the General Staff of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR], and by Division General Joaquin Quintas Solas, chief of the Central Army. After concluding their tour, the inspection team payed tribute to the fallen internationalists in Angola and other countries during a visit to the (Tomas Acea) Cemetery in the city of Cienfuegos.

The inspection team, which is composed of chiefs and officers of the FAR and Ministry of the Interior and by leaders of other organizations of the central administration of the state, will continue its activities in this province until Monday. Its main objective is to determine if the Central Army has met all the conditions to name it ready for defense in the first stage. Division General Sixto Batista Santana spoke about the characteristics of this inspection.

[Begin Batista recording] Without a basic education, there is no training. That is why we insist so much on basic education. The province and all its units have worked. The efforts and good spirits of the people are evident. [end recording]

Antigua and Barbuda

Bird on Diplomatic Relations With USSR, Cuba

FL1201180990 Bridgetown CANA in English 2247 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Report by Colin James]

[Text] St John's, Antigua, Jan 11, CANA—Antigua and Barbuda's deputy prime minister, Lester Bird, has defended the government's recent decision to establish diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union while staying clear of Cuba.

He told reporters: "...the Soviet Union is one of the super powers and clearly in the light of recent developments there could be no justification whatever for Antigua not to establish diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union."

On Cuba, he said: "One of the things that is clearly an obstacle (to the establishment of diplomatic relations) is the fact that Cuba challenges credentials of the Grenada Government in the international forum and as we are part of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States [OECS] we have a joint decision with the OECS that we should not accelerate that process." He was responding to a question during a press conference that followed a meeting of Antigua and Barbuda's heads of overseas missions.

Bird said there is no agreement with the Caribbean Community (Caricom) and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) "that we have to discuss the question of which country we establish diplomatic relations with before we do so."

He added, "We are of the position that we should seek to establish diplomatic relations with as many countries as we can. It is true that prior to what happened in Eastern Europe that we had not looked seriously at establishing diplomatic relationship with the Soviet Union but as I have said the world has changed fundamentally."

He said the Soviet Union was at the head of the list when the government decided to "increase and accelerate our process of establishment of diplomatic relations with many countries."

Haiti

FADH, Ministry Issue Communiques on Strike

FL1201193290 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1000 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] A communique from the general headquarters of the Military Department of the Metropolitan Area says: Following a call for a general strike today made over certain radio stations by political organizations—a general strike the only objective of which is to cause confusion and disturb the public peace—the Military Department of the Metropolitan Area informs the general public that all posts under its

command have received formal orders to protect the lives and property and defend the interests of all the inhabitants of the capital and its environs. Measures have been taken to allow the population to go about its business normally today, 12 January, on the occasion of this general strike.

By order of Colonel Romulus.

This communique is signed by Jodel Lessage, Lieutenant Colonel, Haitian Armed Forces [FADH], who is in charge of public relations. [passage omitted]

The Directorate of Information of the Ministry of Information, Culture, And Coordination informs the general public that the FADH High Command has taken steps to allow the population to go about its activities as usual. Consequently, by order of the interim commander in chief of the FADH, all commanders of military departments in the Republic of Haiti have received formal instructions to protect lives and property and defend the interests of the inhabitants of the areas under their command.

Measures have also been taken following statements made over certain radio stations, in the capital and provincial towns, to trigger a general strike and disturb the public peace.

The administration of the Ministry of Information, Culture, and Coordination once again hopes the Haitian people will show that they possess a sense of responsibility and are level-headed at a juncture at which respect for democratic principles is indispensable for the blossoming of (?proper) values to ensure a successful transition for the entire nation.

This was a communique from the Ministry of Information, Culture, and Coordination.

National Assemblage Holds News Conference

FL1201160290 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1500 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] [Announcer] The National Assemblage, which is made up of some 20 political and union organizations, held a news conference this morning in connection with the actions it intends to carry out to prevent President Avril's return.

[Reporter Rothschild] The Assemblage announces a number of actions aimed at preventing President Avril, who is visiting [the Republic of] China, from returning to Haiti. At a news conference this morning, the Assemblage confirmed the call for a general strike tomorrow. The Assemblage is also planning to hold a nationwide demonstration to say "no" to President Prosper Avril's return. The Assemblage will announce, very soon, the date and time of this demonstration.

The Assemblage would like to meet with the Haitian Armed Forces General Staff regarding the alternative of replacing General Avril. [end recording]

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] The objective of tomorrow's strike and the demonstration is to prevent Gen. Avril from returning to Haiti. We do not want the general! We do not want him! We have never wanted him! We have been fighting for this for a long time. We are against the establishment of a new dictatorship in Haiti, and we (?are fighting) to prevent this. We must, therefore, be clear and precise. In the name of the Assemblage, I am calling on all political leaders, union leaders, and leaders of democratic organizations to show proof of political maturity at this juncture and renounce all personal political ambitions and unite to form a single bloc [applause and shouting in background] to uproot Avril [words indistinct] (?dictatorship) in Haiti.

Allow me to refresh your memories as to what happened on 31 January. The monkey left, and then returned for awhile [an allusion to Jean-Claude Duvalier and the Duvalierists]. And what happened? There was bloodshed! Carnage! Many people were killed, and many were arrested. Some of the people arrested have never to this day returned home to their families. We must, therefore, roll up our sleeves and make things work. For this reason, once again, we of the Assemblage are asking all students, merchants, peasants, and civil servants—who have never stirred so as to not lose their jobs, as well as the public transportation vehicle drivers, whom I almost forgot—to park their vehicles tomorrow, 12 January, to protest the criminal acts, insecurity, and so forth going on in Haiti. This would contribute to the matter of stopping up the snake's hole, cementing the snake's hole so the snake will not return. [end recording]

It must be pointed out that during this news conference, the statements of particular members of the National Assemblage showed a certain lack of cohesiveness. Rene Theodore of the Unified Party of Haitian Communists declared he is not in favor of exile for Gen. Prosper Avril. He thinks the general can return to his country, but not as chief of state.

In any case, the members of the Assemblage, which is made up of a number of political, union, and socio-professional organizations, all agree that Gen Avril's government should be replaced by another, more credible government better able to ensure the transition to democracy in Haiti.

Gen. Romulus Rejects Proposal To Replace Avril

FL1201204290 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1500 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Text] During a news conference it held yesterday, the National Assemblage, while calling for a general strike for today, Friday 12 January, said it was going to talk to the Army General Staff with a view to replacing General Avril by a democratic government of transition. General Fritz Romulus, who is acting head of government until Gen. Avril returns on 15 January, refused to hear this proposal. Gen. Romulus said he was not going to take into account whimsical statements made by the politicians behind this movement.

Jamaica

Treaty Signed With Mexico on Drug Trafficking

FL1201215090 Bridgetown CANA in English 2106 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Jan 12, CANA—Jamaica and Mexico on Thursday signed a treaty to cooperate in the fight against illicit drug trafficking and drug abuse.

Under the agreement, signed in Kingston by Ben Clare, minister of state in the Jamaican Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Mexico's undersecretary of foreign affairs, Gonzales Galvez, both countries will cooperate on preventive education, public information, the exchange of information on crop eradication and destruction of illegal drug production facilities, the official news agency, Jampress reported.

The agreement also calls for cooperation on the development of more effective treatment and rehabilitation measures and the drafting of new legal instruments. Jampress said negotiations on the bilateral agreement started last summer.

Trinidad and Tobago

Ambassador to UN Comments on Panama Issue

FL1501153090 Bridgetown CANA in English 1631 GMT 14 Jan 90

[Text] United Nations, Jan 14, CANA—Although it opposed the U.S. invasion of Panama, Trinidad and Tobago thinks the immediate withdrawal of U.S. soldiers wouldn't be enough to bring peace to Panama.

Trinidad and Tobago's UN Ambassador Dr. Majorie Thorpe, has suggested that the departure of U.S. troops should accompany the setting up of an electoral system that would guarantee free and fair elections in the Central American nation. "We share the regret of other members of the international community at the breach of international law attendant on the intervention in Panama, but we are not persuaded that the immediate withdrawal of the United States force would, by itself, be to the advantage of the Panamanian people at this time, or that such a withdrawal alone is enough to ensure the peace and security of Central America," she said. Thorpe's comments have been interpreted by some at the United Nations to mean that Trinidad and Tobago would like some of the U.S. troops to remain in Panama until the new electoral system was in place.

In an address to the United Nations, Thorpe said that her country, which was a member of team sent by the Organization of American States to Panama last year to negotiate a peaceful settlement of the crisis there, believed there was an "urgent and immediate need" for several issues to be addressed, "not the least of which would be putting in place the necessary infrastructure for new, free, and fair elections as soon as possible." According to the diplomat, Trinidad opposed the "recent turn of events in Panama because two fundamental tenets of her country's foreign policy were at stake, namely the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of states and, secondly, the commitment to the peaceful settlement of disputes through dialogue and negotiation.

The Panamanian issue split Caribbean states at the United Nations and the Organization of American States. While Trinidad and Tobago, the Bahamas, Jamaica, Barbados and Guyana voted at the United Nations to condemn the United States for its invasion, Antigua, Grenada, and several other countries abstained while Dominica surprised a number of Third World states by joining the U.S to oppose the criticism.

At the OAS, several Caribbean states, including Jamaica, abstained when the OAS criticized the U.S. for ransacking Nicaragua's embassy in Panama during the invasion.

$18 Billion Reduction on Foreign Debt Secured

PA1301193690 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1300 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] Mexico secured an $18 billion reduction on its foreign debt on 10 January when documents drafted for debt renegotiation with commercial banks were signed in New York City.

Finance and Public Credit Secretary Pedro Aspe Armella has explained the terms of the negotiations that produced a savings of $4 billion. This would not have been possible if it had been decided to directly repurchase the debt in secondary markets at a 50-percent discount.

In addition to this, because of the retroactive nature of the renegotiations, the transfer of Mexican capital abroad will decrease.

[Begin recording] [Aspe Armella] We are going to be paying less during the next three quarters because we have paid in excess from the date of the signing [words indistinct] retroactive.

As a result of this, we will see a temporary and large drop in our transfer of resources abroad and this will take off the pressure on the system. [end recording]

Secretary Aspe Armella participated in the international conference on semi-industrialized economies, as is the case in Latin America, that was organized by the National Autonomous University of Mexico and the University of Saint Louis in the United States. At that conference, the secretary said that the challenges for the next few years are to consolidate what has been achieved, and to begin rapid and constant growth again. To do this, he said, it is necessary to outline and implement measures that will promote an increase in savings and investments in our country.

Spain To Grant Government $4 Billion Loan

PA1501040090 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1300 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] During a friendly, solemn, and warm meeting, President Carlos Salinas de Gortari and King Juan Carlos of Spain pointed out the atmosphere of cooperation that the friendly relations between their two countries have produced.

During a dinner offered in the Spanish monarchs' honor, the president said Mexico has one of the broadest economies in the world with clear rules and legal guarantees for investments and the diversification of markets.

King Juan Carlos answered the president's speech by saying that our country deserves Spain's everlasting gratitude for welcoming thousands of Spaniards throughout the years. He emphasized that the bilateral relations between the two countries have reached a high degree of development and excellent perspectives are predicted for the future. Spain will grant Mexico a $4 billion loan and the agreement will be signed today by President Carlos Salinas de Gortari and King Juan Carlos of Spain.

President Carlos Salinas de Gortari greeted the presence of King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia in Mexico City by stating that Mexico and Spain have yet to live the best part of their friendship. The speech was given in the main courtyard of the National Palace, during the official reception offered to the Spanish monarchs. It was a friendly, solemn, and emotion-filled moment.

It is not strange for Mexico and Spain to re-encounter themselves and salute their people's courage in the face of world events, President Salinas said to his distinguished visitors.

[Begin Salinas recording] The conditions are given—along with a willingness to live together—for a new era of bilateral relations between Mexico and Spain. [end recording]

King Juan Carlos recalled his first visit to our country 11 years ago, a few months after relations were restored following a 39-year rupture.

[Begin King Juan Carlos recording] The past 11 years have been substantially important in the history of our two nations, which have been capable of marching—hand in hand many times—through the intricate but strengthening road of liberty, democracy, and progress. We have not been spared problems and our common realities are surely different from what we imagined 11 years ago. [end recording]

The king inspected his honor guard accompanied by the Mexican president. They both walked away to what would be their first talk in the presidential offices at the National Palace. However, they first stopped to view Diego Rivera's murals and tour the 1857 parliamentary room. Later, in the Turkish Room, the King of Spain bestowed the collar of the Isabel La Catolica Order on the Mexican President, and the band of the dame of the Isabel La Catolica Order to the president's wife, Cecilia Ocelli.

The Spanish monarchs stayed at the National Palace 1 hour and 40 minutes, enough to emphasize the friendship, affinity, and brotherhood that prevails between two nations—once the obstacles and difficulties that separated them for many years were overcome, as Juan Carlos de Borbon would say.

5-Year Oil Agreement Signed With Spain

PA1601011290 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1300 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Report by Norma Brenes]

[Text] Mexican and Spanish businessmen have agreed to make joint investments for close to $2.5 billion in the cellulose, paper, petrochemistry, and tourism sectors.

In addition, and through Mexican Petroleum [PEMEX] and Rexol, S.A., Mexico and Spain yesterday signed a 5-year agreement whereby Mexico will sell 150,000 barrels of oil per day to Spain. This agreement can be extended at the end of every year. This sale will yield more than $4 billion for Mexico, PEMEX director Francisco Rojas has reported.

Rojas said that, in the framework of the Mexico-Spain bilateral relations represented by the foreign ministers of the two nations, the cooperation agreement will take the form of a contract for the sale and purchase of shares. PEMEX will acquire 5 percent of Rexol shares, a private corporation, in up to 2 years. Thus, the Spanish corporation will become the main shareholder of PEMEX and will consolidate its presence in Europe. Rexol, in turn, will guarantee the supply of oil. [Paragraph as heard]

In addition to being the second largest shareholder, PEMEX will have the right to appoint a voting representative to the board of directors. To conclude the agreement, PEMEX handed over 34.29 percent of the capital shares of the Spanish corporation Petroleos del Norte [PETRONORT]. As a result, Rexol will own nearly 90 percent of this refinery. To point out the fairness of the deal and to make clear that the crude oil sale will be made at the market price, Rojas said Mexico is seeking new markets and partners now that world interdependence has become more pronounced.

Salinas Meets Honduran President-Elect Callejas

PA1501223690 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2132 GMT 15 Jan 90

[Text] President Carlos Salinas de Gortari this afternoon received Honduran President-elect Rafael Leonardo Callejas Romero at the Los Pinos official residence.

The presidential information office reported that Salinas and Callejas held a conversation and later attended a private lunch.

There was no immediate official report on the subjects discussed at the time. Callejas, who arrived in Mexico City today for a 3-day visit, will meet this afternoon with Secretary of Commerce Jaime Serra Puche and Secretary of Finance Pedro Aspe Armella. Callejas will meet tomorrow with Secretary of Tourism Pedro Joaquin Coldwell and Mexican Petroleum [PEMEX] director Francisco Rojas.

Costa Rica

Arias Calls for Investigation of Oqueli Murder

PA1501223390 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2121 GMT 15 Jan 90

[Text] San Jose, 15 Jan (DPA)—Costa Rican President Oscar Arias today urged Guatemala President Vinicio Cerezo to follow the example of Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani and order an "exhaustive investigation into the murder of Salvadoran social democratic leader Hector Oqueli Colindres in Guatemala 2 days ago.

Arias said: "I hope President Cerezo will duplicate the actions taken by his counterpart Alfredo Cristiani in the case of the Jesuits who were savagely killed 2 months ago in El Salvador."

The Costa Rican president harshly criticized "Hector Oqueli's murderers. This is a horrible crime," he said.

The Costa Rican president is very moved by the murder of Oqueli, because they studied together at the University of Essex, Great Britain, 22 years ago, when Arias obtained his doctorate.

"He was a great friend and comrade," Arias said, recalling the deeds of the murdered Salvadoran politician, who visited Costa Rica several times to participate in lectures, seminars, and discussions.

Arias Discusses Aid With Norway Foreign Minister

PA1201143190 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Text] President Oscar Arias has said that Costa Rica should follow Norway's example. He said that Norway is a small country with a small population that has a high standard of living because its people are highly educated.

President Arias made this statement following his meeting on 11 January with Norwegian Foreign Minister Kjell Megne Bondevik who arrived on 11 January for a 20-hour visit as part of a tour through the United States, Guatemala, Costa Rica, and Nicaragua.

The Norwegian minister will travel today to Nicaragua to end the first part of his tour through Central American countries since he assumed his post 3 months ago.

Norway will not reduce its economic aid programs for the Third World countries because of its decision to give aid to East European countries that have participated in the democratic revolution, the Norwegian foreign minister said after having met with Costa Rican Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto and President Arias.

Arias said he hopes that in spite of priorities in Europe, Norway will not abandon the developing countries. He said that the rest of the rich countries will not adopt Norway's attitude and they will concentrate aid on the European countries that have set communism aside to take the path of democracy.

Arias said that the United States will not increase its aid to Panama. The president said that according to U.S. Senator Lugar it will be very difficult for the United States to increase its aid to Romania and Panama. Arias noted that it has been said that $1.5 billion would be needed for the reconstruction of Panama and that a similar amount would be needed for the reconstruction of Romania.

The president believes that it will not be possible for the United States to meet these demands because it has other priorities. U.S. public expenditures are being reduced, funds for schools, children, and ethnic minorities are being cut, and those people will not understand why funds are available to help Panamanians and the Romanians.

Sansa Plane Crashes Near San Jose; 21 Aboard

PA1501173390 Paris AFP in Spanish 1720 GMT 15 Jan 90

[Text] San Jose, 15 Jan (AFP)—Sources of the Judicial Investigation Agency (OIJ) have confirmed that a plane belonging to Costa Rica's Sansa [National Air Services, Inc.] crashed this morning in Pico Blanco Hill, about 20 km southeast of San Jose with 21 people aboard.

The plane had departed at 0915 (1515 GMT) from the Juan Santamaria International Airport and crashed about 5 minutes later. The fate of the 18 passengers and 3 crewmen, who were aboard the plane, is still unknown

10 Foreigners Reported Aboard

PA1501211890 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2038 GMT 15 Jan 90

[Text] San Jose, 15 January (ACAN-EFE)—The Costa Rican Security Ministry reported today that 10 foreigners were aboard the SANSA airline plane that crashed this morning with 21 people aboard against Pico Blanco Hill, about 20 km from San Jose.

A spokesman for the Security Ministry said that officials were finding it difficult to determine the nationality of the foreigners, but that it is believed all of them were U.S. citizens. He said that it is highly unlikely that there were any survivors.

The report could not be confirmed at the U.S. Embassy in San Jose because today is a U.S. holiday.

The Aviocar, the registration of which was TISAB, was carrying 10 U.S. citizens, 11 Costa Ricans, and a crew of 3.

The destination of the Spanish-made airplane owned by "Servicios Aereos Nacionales" (SANSA) was Palmar Sur, approximately 200 km southeast of San Jose.

The official source said that the plane's wreckage can be seen at the crash site, but that there is no sign of fire. He said that there is no indication that there could be any survivors as the Costa Rican Red Cross has hinted.

Rescue teams from the Security Ministry and the Red Cross are slowly advancing through the wooded area, over which weather conditions have deteriorated over the past few hours.

The plane, which disappeared from the radar tracking screens of Juan Santamaria International Airport 10 minutes into its flight, was found at 1145 (1745 GMT) on the slopes of Pico Blanco Hill by air patrols. The place cannot be reached by air, however.

This is the first plane accident in Costa Rica this year and the first ever suffered by SANSA.

Passenger List Released; 22 Aboard

PA1601001990 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2343 GMT 15 Jan 90

[Text] San Jose, 15 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—Costa Rican Security Minister Hernan Garron appeared very troubled today because he fears that the 22 people on board an airplane of the Costa Rican National Air Services, SANSA, that crashed on a hill close to the capital this morning are all dead.

The first air tragedy in Central America so far this year may have cost the lives of 10 U.S. citizens and 12 Costa Ricans who boarded the SANSA flight at 0745 (1345 GMT) this morning.

If the death of all on board is confirmed, this would be the worst accident in Costa Rican aeronautics history.

The Spanish-made Aviocar, with registration TI-SAB, was spotted by a Security Ministry helicopter at 1145 (1745 GMT) on a slope of Pico Blanco Hill, about 20 km southwest of San Jose.

Preliminary Red Cross reports hinted at the possibility of survivors, a "hope" that SANSA manager Carlos Delgado has not relinquished.

However, Carlos Jimenez, a public security spokesman, told ACAN-EFE that "unfortunately," no signs of life had been detected near the wreckage of the plane, which did not burst into flames despite the impact.

The 3 crew members and 19 passengers were on their way to the Costa Rican towns of Coto 47 and Palmar Norte, over 200 km southeast of the capital.

SANSA Manager Carlos Delgado released the following list of passengers, but did not identify the 10 U.S. citizens: Paul Dascot; Mr and Mrs Mackenzie; David Ulan; Miss Tams; Mr Hanson; Mr and Mrs Hemot; Greta Miller and her daughter Greta, a minor; Norman Baltimore; and Ileana Ramirez.

Also on the plane were: Sergio Umana, Danilo Pacheco, Magda de Toss, Jorge Acera, Luis Francisco Murillo, Ros Lester, and Ferman Campos.

The crew has been identified as: Carlos Echeverria, the pilot; Diego Prieto, the copilot; and a stewardess whose last name is Alfaro.

The bad weather conditions have made it difficult for the rescue team to reach the site of the accident. For the past 3 hours they have been climbing the mountain where the plane was spotted.

The Civil Aeronautics authorities have not explained the possible reasons for the crash. The atmospheric conditions were good at 0800 (1400 GMT) when the plane is believed to have crashed.

Likewise, the Costa Rican public security minister said that the plane took off carrying acceptable weight, approximately 7,000 kg. The minister insisted that there is very little chance of finding survivors.

The Aviocar accident is the first this year in Costa Rica. The last accident was reported in 1989 when a light plane crashed and three persons were killed.

In mid-1988, a LACSA plane broke into three pieces on the runway of the Juan Santamaria International Airport, however, its 26 passengers escaped with only bruises.

Search Temporarily Suspended

PA1601020090 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0058 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] San Jose, 15 January (ACAN-EFE)—The Costa Rican Security Minister suspended today at 1700 (2300 GMT), because of poor weather, the search for the 22 occupants of the plane that crashed this morning against a hill near the capital, San Jose.

An Aviocar plane of the Servicios Aereos Nacionales (SANSA) airline carrying 19 passengers and a crew of 3 crashed against Pico Blanco Hill, about 20 km southwest of San Jose, and the authorities are afraid all of them have died, Security Minister Hernan Garron told the press.

It was unofficially reported late this afternoon that the passengers included three Panamanians, two Canadians, and approximately ten U.S. citizens, but SANSA has not been able to identify them fully because this was a domestic flight and in such cases the nationality of the passengers is not specified on the passenger list.

Civil Police Director Juan Barrantes decided to suspend rescue operations until tomorrow because the intense cold and heavy fog surrounding the mountain makes it dangerous to enter further into the area.

Approximately 50 policemen and a similar number of rescuers will establish camp at Pico Blanco Hill for the night to resume the rescue effort tomorrow morning at daybreak.

El Salvador

Opposition Leader Oqueli Assasinated in Guatemala

MNR Communique on Kidnapping

PA1301014390 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0032 GMT 13 Jan 90

[Communique issued by the National Revolutionary Movement, MNR, in San Salvador on 12 January]

[Text] The MNR reports the disappearance and kidnapping of MNR Assistant Secretary General Hector Oqueli Colindres in Guatemala City today, 12 January.

Oqueli arrived in Guatemala on 11 January. He had planned to travel to Nicaragua early on 12 January to join a socialist International delegation in that country. From Nicaragua he would travel to Quito, Ecuador, to attend a convention of the Socialist International Committee for Latin America, of which Oqueli is secretary.

According to reports, Oqueli and his companion Gilda Flores, a member of the Social Democratic Party of Guatemala, were abducted by heavily armed men between 0630 and 0700 as they were heading to La Aurora Airport to board their flight.

We urge the international community, particularly the democratic governments of the world, to demand the immediate release of Hector Oqueli and his companion, as well as a total clarification of this attack.

[Signed] MNR National Executive Committee

[Dated] 12 January 1990, San Salvador

FMLN Communique on Kidnapping

PA1301011990 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0012 GMT 13 Jan 90

["Text" of communique issued by the General Command of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front on 12 January—place not given]

[Text] The FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] states the following regarding the kidnapping in Guatemala of Hector Oqueli Colindres, top leader of the MNR [National Revolutonary Movement] and his companion:

1. We hold ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] responsible for this kidnapping, which was perpetrated through its links with the Guatemalan death squads. Alfredo Cristiani and Roberto D'Aubuisson should demand that their party's death squads solve this problem by releasing Oqueli.

2. This new attack against the democratic forces and this violation of human rights constitute a threat to peace.

3. We call on humanitarian organizations to protest this action and to do whatever they can to guarantee respect for the lives of Oqueli and his companion and to obtain their prompt release.

[Signed] FMLN General Command

[Dated] 12 January 1990

Further on Kidnapping

PA1301003590 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2354 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Text] Mexico City, 12 Jan (DPA)—Salvadoran Social Democratic politician Hector Oqueli Colindres was kidnapped today in Guatemala City, his party reported in Mexico City.

Oqueli Colindres is the secretary of the National Revolutionary Movement [MNR]. The MNR is directed by Guillermo Ungo. Oqueli is also Socialist International secretary for Latin America.

In a communique, the MNR said Oqueli had arrived in Guatemala on 11 January and was planning to travel today to Nicaragua as a member of a Socialist International delegation.

The communique adds that Oqueli Colindres was kidnapped between 0630 and 0700 by heavily armed men while on his way to the airport along with Guatemalan Social Democratic leader Gilda Flores, who was also kidnapped.

Oqueli, who returned last year to El Salvador after a long exile in Mexico, where he represented the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front and the Revolutionary Democratic Front [FMLN-FDR] Political-Diplomatic Commission.

Government on Leader's Disappearance

PA1301044490 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0202 GMT 13 Jan i90

[Text] San Salvador, 12 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—The Salvadoran Government today deplored the disappearance of Social Democratic Leader Hector Oqueli Colindres this morning in Guatemala.

National Information Secretary Mauricio Sandoval told ACAN-EFE that "it is regrettable," adding that the Salvadoran Government will make the necessary efforts through diplomatic channels to obtain more information on the case.

According to sources from his party, Hector Oqueli Colindres, assistant secretary of the National Revolutionary Movement (MNR) disappeared today in Guatemala when the vehicle in which he was traveling was intercepted by heavily armed men wearing civilian clothing.

An MNR spokesman reported that Oqueli Colindres was "kidnapped" as he was heading to the airport in Guatemala City to take a flight to Nicaragua, where he would join a Socialist International delegation that is currently in that country to observe the electoral campaign.

MNR spokesmen said that the Guatemalan Police found the vehicle in which Oqueli was traveling with a member of the Guatemalan Social Democratic Party without its occupants.

Oqueli Found Dead

FL1301144390 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1400 GMT 13 Jan 90

[Text] Guatemala City, 13 Jan (NOTIMEX)—Mario Solorzano Martinez, leader of Guatemala's Democratic Socialist Party, reported today that the Salvadoran political leader Hector Oqueli, who was kidnapped in Guatemala, was found dead.

Oqueli's body was found next to the body of Guatemalan politician Gilda Flores, who was taking him to this city's airport so that Oqueli could travel to Nicaragua.

Solorzano Martinez told NOTIMEX that, because of the short period of time Oqueli was in Guatemala—less than 24 hours—the only explanation is that there are groups linked to the Salvadoran paramilitary squadrons in the country.

More on MNR Leader's Death

PA1301162090 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1503 GMT 13 Jan 90

[Text] San Salvador, 13 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—The bodies of Hector Oqueli, undersecretary of the National Revolutionary Movement [MNR] of El Salvador, and Gilda Flores, a member of Guatemala's Social Democratic Party, were found in Cuilapa, Guatemala, near the border with El Salvador, the relatives of one of the victims have reported. According to the reports, the two bodies appeared to have been shot in their temples.

One of Oqueli's relatives, who asked to remain anonymous, told ACAN-EFE that the Salvadoran politician still had his personal papers, including his passport, in one of his pockets.

The MNR reported on 12 January that heavily armed men in civilian clothes had intercepted a vehicle with Oqueli and Flores enroute for La Aurora Airport and that the two political leaders had been kidnapped and were reported missing.

Oqueli was to fly to Nicaragua to join an International Socialist delegation which will observe the Nicaraguan electoral campaign.

According to the relative, Guatemalan civilian sources reported finding the bodies to him earlier today.

Oqueli departed El Salvador on 13 November, 2 days after the guerrillas launched their largest offensive in the recent decade. Reportedly, Oqueli had been threatened with death by several people who, through a government radio network, had accused him of being an "accomplice" of the rebels.

The MNR, whose secretary general is Guillermo Ungo, is a legally registered party which forms the Democratic Convergence together with the Social Christian Movement and the Social Democratic Party.

FMLN Blames ARENA

PA1401014090 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0015 GMT 14 Jan 90

[Communique issued by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front General Command in El Salvador on 13 January]

[Text] Regarding the assassination of Hector Oqueli Colindres, leader of the National Revolutionary Movement and the Democratic Convergence and secretary for Latin America of the Socialist International, in Guatemala on 12 January, we state:

1. We blame ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance], the regime of [President Alfredo] Cristiani and [ARENA leader Roberto] D'Aubuisson, and its Armed Forces for this detestable assassination. The links between D'Aubuisson's ARENA party and the Guatemalan National Liberation Movement of Mario Sandoval are well known. Both oppose every effort to bring peace to the region.

2. This new crime and the recent events concerning the case of the Jesuits, which show that the masterminds will not be punished, forces us to review our dialogue offer because we are not interested in helping the fascist regime wash its face to obtain U.S. military aid and to proceed with its plan to annihilate every type of opposition.

3. The assassination of Dr Oqueli and his companion, Gilda Flores, the extension of the state of the siege, and the fact that nothing indicates that there will be punishment for the masterminds of the massacre of 16 November show that Cristiani's announcement to get to the bottom of the latter case is only a farce to obtain U.S. aid and to proceed with the slaughter of opposition members.

4. As those events show, the political solution to the conflict requires a purge of the Armed Forces, democratization, and self-determination. There can be no dialogue amid state terrorism, a state of siege, and general trampling on human rights. Under the state of siege, the regime gives itself the right to carry out a general repression. Therefore, we call on all political and social forces to struggle for its abrogation.

5. The 15 December 1989 UN General Assembly resolution demanding respect for human rights and democratic freedoms must be unconditionally implemented in our country to create an atmosphere and conditions favorable to a political solution.

[Signed] FMLN General Command

[Dated] El Salvador, 13 January 1990

MNR Condemns Assassination

PA1401043090 Paris AFP in Spanish 2345 GMT 13 Jan 90

[Text] San Salvador, 13 Jan (AFP)—The Salvadoran opposition National Revolutionary Movement (MNR) today demanded that Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo "thoroughly" investigate the assassination of MNR leader Hector Oqueli and of Guatemalan attorney Gilda Flores.

During a news conference, the MNR Executive Committee condemned the "abominable" crime perpetrated on 12 January in Guatemala by armed men wearing civilian clothes. The MNR also demanded that the Salvadoran Government guarantee the security of MNR Secretary General Guillermo Ungo, who will arrive in El Salvador within the next few hours to attend Oqueli's funeral, which is scheduled for 15 January.

Oqueli, 45, and Gilda Flores, a member of the Democratic Socialist Party (PSD) of Guatemala, were kidnapped while they were on their way to La Aurora Airport in Guatemala City. Their bodies were found later at a place near the Salvadoran border.

"The people responsible for this unjustifiable assassination are the eternal enemies of liberty, peace, and democracy," the MNR states. The MNR, along with the Social Democratic Party and the Social Christian People's Movement [MPSC], make up the Democratic Convergence coalition.

The MPSC also issued a communique deploring the assassination of Oqueli and urging the international community to condemn this action.

Cristiani Names Army Suspects in Jesuit Murders

Cristiani Addresses Nation

PA1301231490 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 2100 GMT 13 Jan 90

["Message to the nation" by President Alfredo Cristiani; place not given—live or recorded; Cristiani is accompanied at the podium by Defense Minister General Humberto Larios; Colonel Rene Ponce, chief of staff of the Armed Forces; and Deputy Defense Ministers Colonel Orlando Zepeda and Colonel Orlando Montano]

[Text] Salvadoran people: When we assumed the Presidency of the Republic, we committed ourselves to achieving more efficient justice and more widespread respect for human rights. We said that we were against all forms of injustice and disrespect for human beings, and that those who insisted on remaining on the devious path of violence would be punished according to the law.

From the moment the crime against the Jesuit priests and their employees was reported, the government and the Armed Forces demonstrated their determination to conduct a thorough investigation and to place in the hands of justice those suspected of participating in the crime, no matter who they were.

The same day the incident took place, the government began the pertinent investigations with the full support of the Armed Forces High Command. This was done without considering national or international opinion, but as a moral obligation in line with our great responsibility of running the government, and as the spontaneous result of our convictions.

The Criminal Investigation Commission was designated to carry out the investigations, and we requested technical assistance from the United States, Great Britain, Spain, and subsequently from Canada. That assistance was generously provided by these governments.

The Criminal Investigation Commission began working with absolute freedom. The FBI, Scotland Yard, and the Spanish Police examined without any restrictions the information gathered during the investigation. This process has at all times been conducted impartially and professionally, and the foreign investigators have personally acknowledged this fact. We are pleased to announce this as a public recognition of all those who were involved in this process.

When the Criminal Investigation Commission informed us that, by means of technical and scientific methods, they had found evidence of Army involvement in this crime, we decided to create a special honor commission, composed of Army officers of various ranks, so that with the support of a technical team they could contribute to clearing up this crime as well as determining who was responsible for it.

We want to make it very clear that this is just one phase of the investigation that we are conducting so that truth can be found. It will be up to the judicial authorities to conduct this process to the end so that, according to the laws of the Republic, the guilt or innocence of those involved can be determined. The work of the honor commission has ended. Its conclusions will be passed to the Criminal Investigation Commission so that it, as an auxiliary body of the judicial branch, can submit to the relevant court the technical-scientific evidence and other results that were obtained as well as those allegedly involved.

In this regard, the following persons have been placed at the disposal of the Criminal Investigation Commission: Colonel Guillermo Alfredo Benavides Moreno, Lieutenant Luigi Rene Mendoza Vallecillos, Lieutenant Jose Ricardo Espinoza Guerra, Second Lieutenant Gonzalo

Guevara Cerritos, Second Sergeant Antonio Ramiro Avalos Vargas, Second Sergeant Tomas Zarbate Castillo, Corporal Angel Perez Vasquez, Private Oscar Mariano Amaya Grimaldi, and Private Jorge Alberto Sierra Asencio. The latter deserted in late December.

Now that the investigation has advanced to a significant point, I believe the time is right to say that the results obtained thus far respond to the widespread outcry of the Salvadoran people—in the sense that those charged with criminal actions stand trial so criminals are not left unpunished. This is the commitment of the government of the Republic and the Armed Forces. However, it is wise to clarify that, in the same manner that people have made demands and condemned the case at issue today, actions resulting from the wave of FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] terrorist violence should also be condemned and punished with the same vehemence.

In the same manner, again we want to urge all Salvadorans to abstain from speculating over these regrettable incidents, because that will only hinder the judicial process. It is necessary that law and justice prevail in our country, so that no one tramples on them.

Regarding this investigation, we wish to reaffirm that an objectivity has prevailed at all times, and that the accused will be sent to the pertinent court so that they stand trial according to the mechanisms established in the Constitution and in other laws.

In conclusion, we want to tell the Salvadoran people that, although it is true this is a regrettable incident, we must accept it as an unavoidable reality and as evidence to the world that we Salvadorans and our institutions have a high sense of justice, morality, and ethics.

As commander of the Armed Forces, I want to congratulate all its members for their professionalism, dedication, and exemplary conduct, evidenced not only in view of this incident, but also by halting—in defense of democracy and peace—the FMLN terrorist aggression. That brilliant historic event will always be present in the hearts of our people, who will render homage to the Armed Forces for having protected the freedom of our future generations.

Thank you very much. May God bless you.

Report on 'Cover-Up Plan'

PA1401034190 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0027 GMT 14 Jan 90

[Text] Attention, local and international press, we will now present a report revealing Cristiani's plan to try to cover up the assassination of the Jesuit priests.

At noon on 11 January, we carried a report on this plan, and 3 hours before [words indistinct] appeared on a national radio and television network. We will now present a report, which—we repeat—reveals Cristiani's plan to let go unpunished the assassination of the Jesuit priests. This is a report we presented 3 hours before Cristiani appeared on a radio and television network.

The 72-hour deadline set by Alfredo Cristiani to reveal the names of the military personnel who assassinated the Jesuit priests and their two maids has passed, and extensive information has been circulating among diplomatic, political, and journalistic circles on the version the government wants to present. Cristiani will not reveal the truth. Along with La Tandona [reference to the 1966 graduating class of the Captain General Gerardo Barrios Military Academy], he has drafted a version to try to clear the Armed Forces General Staff command of all responsibility and to place the blame for this at the level of executive command.

Cristiani will try to present the assassination of the priests as being the result of a circumstancial operational error. According to the version drafted by the Armed Forces General Staff and by Cristiani, on the night of 16 November, Atlacatl Battalion troops had been sent to the UCA [Central American University] to conduct a routine search. During the operation, a soldier incidentally became involved in a heated argument with Salvadoran Priest Joaquin Lopez Lopez, during which he shot the priest, killing him instantly.

According to the story the Army General Staff and Cristiani are preparing, this unforesable action would have complicated the routine search. Therefore, the leader of the patrol decided to eliminate all the priests and their two maids so as not to leave witnesses.

This is what Presider Cristiani and the Army's General Staff are preparing as their defense. To [words indistinct] this version, Cristiani [words indistinct] guessed the declarations made by the witness who testified about the last words of the late Father Martin Baro at the time of the crime. Baro was heard shouting: This is unjust!

According to the version Cristiani is preparing, Atlacatl Battalion soldiers reported the incident to General Guillermo Benavides, director of the military academy; and to Lieutenant Colonel Camilo Hernandez of the military academy, who in turn notified other officers, including Colonel Armando Aviles, chief of the G-5 of the General Staff. For reasons of personal self interest, Col Armando Aviles passed this information confidentially to U.S. Ambassador William Walker.

The facts, their implications, and the drafting of this version of the story generated heated arguments between the members of the General Staff, the U.S. Embassy, and Cristiani. Ultimately, the media learned about these arguments, and in view of the imminent publication of this situation in the media, Alfredo Cristiani was forced to admit in a hurry and to openly acknowledge the involvement of the military in the assassination of the Jesuits.

The main reason for coming up with this version was to [words indistinct] masterminds of the crime [words indistinct] to find out who the perpetrators were. With

this version, Cristiani and the High Command are trying to come up with extenuating circumstances for the trial and to place the responsibility for the assassination of the Jesuits on mid-level military officers. The colonels who were involved in the crime could be set free and their responsibility would only be related to the fact that the crime was committed within an area under their command.

This version of the crime is aimed at leaving the Armed Forces High Command free from any responsibility and to only slightly touch the members of La Tandona, especially Col. Orlando Cepeda, who was the one who signed the order to assassinate the Jesuits, and Col Rene Emilio Ponce, chief of staff. Col Guillermo Benavides, who is a member of little importance within La Tandona, was indirectly involved in the crime.

However, the [word indistinct] is self evident. The decision to carry out an operation to kill popular and religious democratic leaders was made by the General Staff of the Armed Forces [words indistinct] 4 days after the FMLN offensive began. This operation was part of a complete counteroffensive plan of the Armed Forces, which included the massive use of all the firepower of the Air Force against poor neighborhoods and the killing of democratic people's movement and church leaders.

Alfredo Cristiani, who was taken to the headquarters of the General Staff for security reasons and assumed control of the defense plan, was fully aware of the genocide plan. U.S. officers and advisers were also at the General Staff headquarters at the time to discuss and approve this genocide plan.

The plan was implemented on the evening of 16 November. All labor union offices in San Salvador were looted. The offices of humanitarian organizations, political parties, and religious centers were also looted.

The plan was implemented at the installations of the UCA. The days that followed saw a continuation of the arrests, persecutions, and assassinations. The offices of all the [words indistinct] were attacked. Its leaders were forced to seek refuge or to leave the country to escape this manhunt. This is a policy for which the High Command and Alfredo Cristiani are directly responsible. [Words indistinct] The U.S. Ambassador and U.S. Embassy personnel are fully aware of this.

The need to come up with this version comes from the precarious predicament that the government and the Armed Forces have found themselves in in view of the debates taking place in the U.S. Congress to decide the fate of aid to El Salvador, which is linked to the results of the investigation of the assassination of the Jesuit priests on 16 November.

Col Benavides Made 'Scapegoat'

PA1401024190 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0040 GMT 14 Jan 90

[Station commentary: "The Unresolved Jesuits Case"]

[Text] What we had predicted has occurred. Cristiani announced this afternoon that a colonel, two lieutenants, one second lieutenant, two second sergeants, and two soldiers were involved in the massacre of the Jesuits.

The accusation against Colonel Benavides is the following: That the multiple crime was committed in the sector under his command. From the lieutenant on down, the accusation is that they directly participated in the crime. [Words indistinct], as Cristiani said, that it was Col Benavides, but it was not Col Benavides who issued the order. So, the question is: Who gave the order to kill the Jesuits and their two maids. In our view, Col Benavides was implicated solely as a means of propaganda aimed at the U.S. Congress. It is clear that Col Benavides did not give the order. He probably did not even know about the action. This is consistent with what we know about his background. First, he is not known to have carried out acts of repression or corruption. Our report indicates that Benavides has maintained a position in favor of institutions [institucionalista] and open to discussions. He was described as an active, studious and not repressive cadet, one of the few exceptions in La Tandona [reference to the 1966 graduating class of the Captain General Gerardo Barrios Military Academy]. In other words, for the La Tandona, a gang of assassins, he is a perfect scapegoat.

The massacre of the Jesuits was not a personal decision. It was part of the Armed Forces' counteroffensive actions during the November battles. It was a cold-blooded, premeditated plan executed to decapitate the people's movement and the democratic opposition. Let us remember the threats against Father Ellacuria over the national radio network prior to the assassination. Let us remember that between the night of 15 November and early morning of 16 November, several offices of labor unions and houses of opposition members were attacked. Let us remember that after the massacre of the Jesuits, the officers shouted over loudspeakers that they had killed Ellacuria and that they were going to continue killing communists. The bishop of San Salvador was a witness to this.

In our view, the assassins of the Jesuits were those who appeared on the radio and television network making known the results of the so-called honor commission. Col Benavides will probably be freed in a short time and be appointed to some post abroad, or he might experience the same fate as that of Captain Eduardo Alfonso Avila, who went in and out of jail each time that military aid for El Salvador was discussed in the U.S. Congress.

However, in any case and as has always occurred, it will be the lieutenants, the noncommissioned officers, and the soldiers who carried out an order who will pay the consequences. We have already seen this happen in the cases of the nuns when [words indistinct] a few soldiers, the massacre of San Francisco, and the assassination of the U.S. advisers and Rodolfo Viera. [Words indistinct] once again the people's hopes are frustrated, as has happened in so many other cases.

The assassination of the Jesuits again confirms that to, as Cristiani said, get to the bottom of this, we have to obtain democracy, justice, and self-determination.

Rosa Chavez Commends Announcement

PA1501013790 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1833 GMT 14 Jan 90

[Text] San Salvador, 14 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—Msgr Gregorio Rosa Chavez, auxiliary bishop of San Salvador, said today that President Alfredo Cristiani's message revealing the names of the persons reportedly involved in the six Jesuits' slaying represents "a decisive turn toward the end of impunity" in the country.

Rosa Chavez said in his Sunday homily that "this has augmented the possibilities for the Salvadoran people to recover their trust in the government's institutions."

Nevertheless, in a statement given later to the media, the auxiliary bishop emphasized that the implicated military "do not represent isolated cases of persons who violated the norms of an institution, but are actually part of a formation and thought scheme according to which the defense of human rights is something subversive."

According to Rosa Chavez, "the military world wrongly understands the church's mission in the defense of human rights."

"Asked about eventual responsibilities not specified by the president, Rosa Chavez answered: "This grave action is the result of a conspiracy—at least a conspiracy of silence."

He emphasized that, consequently, the step taken yesterday by the Salvadoran president "is very important, even if it is not the last one."

The bishop recalled that this year is the 10th anniversary of Msgr Oscar Arnulfo Romero's assassination, "which has yet to be solved," and asked the government to carry out "all the legal actions to investigate the cases of thousands and thousands of Salvadorans whose lives were taken by guerrilla groups or the Army."

Rosa Chavez said that the church fully agrees that the crimes of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) should be investigated "with the same zeal" with which the Jesuit priests' slaying has been investigated.

"However, we have asked that the investigation be exhaustively and thoroughly carried out without giving it a propagandistic appearance," he added.

The bishop emphasized that the two ideologies confronting each other in El Salvador equally disdain human rights.

"Marxism is the root of the FMLN's abuse and the national security doctrine represents the basis of the Armed Forces' unacceptable repression," he said.

FMLN Links Suggested

PA1601002690 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2301 GMT 15 Jan 90

[Text] San Salvador, 15 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—Armando Calderon Sol, president of the Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA), the ruling Salvadoran party, today called for an investigation into any possible connection between the military personnel implicated in the assassination of Jesuit priests and the Salvadoran guerrillas.

"It is something so horrendous, so monstrous, that we must investigate the possibility that the FMLN (Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front) staged this assassination to discredit the government," Calderon Sol said.

Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani implicated four officers, including one colonel, and five members of the Armed Forces in the assassination of six Jesuit priests and two women on 16 November at the Central American University.

According to Calderon Sol, the Salvadoran Government "is dutybound to uncover the murderers of the Jesuits and to see if there is any link between the soldiers involved and the FMLN."

"Those responsible acted on their own, to cause problems for the Cristiani government and discredit it. It could not possibly be an isolated act. Investigations are pointing to some kind of conspiracy," the president of the rightist ARENA party said.

In addition, Calderon Sol asked the governments of El Salvador and Guatemala to carry out an "exhaustive" investigation to ensure that the murder of social democratic leader Hector Oqueli Colindres "does not go unpunished."

Calderon noted that "Oqueli had clearly renounced the position of armed struggle in favor of a program for democratic participation."

Oqueli Colindres, a Salvadoran leader of the Socialist International, was found dead along with Gilda Flores, a member of the Guatemalan Social Democratic Party, on 13 January in a town in southeastern Guatemala near the Salvadoran border.

Zamora Interviewed

PM1601104690 Rome LA REPUBLICA in Italian 11 Jan 90 p 17

[Interview with Democratic Convergence leader Ruben Zamora by Alessandro Oppes; date and place not given]

[Excerpt] Rome—[passage omitted] [Oppes] The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] has described the arrest of five soldiers accused of committing the massacre [of six Jesuit priest] as "a manipulated cover operation." Basically, Cristiani is alleged to have decided to punish a number of low-ranking officers to close the case as quickly as possible and to end international pressures. What is your opinion in this regard?

[Zamora] The fact that President Cristiani acknowledges that members of the Army were responsible for the massacre is a first step and definitely a good thing, but it is entirely insufficient unless the subsequent steps are also taken. First, to identify who the responsible parties were: This is the first important point, because nobody can feel satisfied if only low-ranking officers are identified. Such an act can only have been ordered by high-ranking officers. We must not forget the murder of Monsignor Romero, for which there were no sentences and no trials.

[Oppes] However, the Armed Forces High Command immediately denied involvement in the operation, stating that it was an isolated action "divorced from any institutional policy."

[Zamora] I believe this is entirely wrong: The murder of the Jesuit fathers cannot be considered an isolated action. Over 7,000 people have died in El Salvador during 10 years of civil war, and 90 percent of them were civilians. Political assassination by the government forces is a constant practice. Furthermore, torture is regularly practised in El Salvador. The Army High Command cannot fail to know this. They cannot claim to be innocent, because they have the greatest responsibilities for human rights violations.

[Oppes] Yet last month the summit of Central American heads of state in San Jose ended with a success for President Cristiani, who secured an explicit condemnation of the offensive launched by the guerrillas in November, whereas no specific charges were leveled at the government for human rights violations.

[Zamora] There is a positive factor that should be borne in mind, namely, the call from the five presidents for a resumption of the dialogue in El Salvador and the appeal to the UN secretary general to carry out mediation to this end. But in the summit's final document, it is the FMLN and the Nicaraguan contras who pay the price for the agreement among the presidents: These are diplomatic games that do not facilitate the restoration of peace in Central America.

[Oppes] What paths can be taken now to advance the negotiations?

[Zamora] Negotiations are becoming increasingly necessary. The guerrilla offensive shows that the FMLN is a strong military force, but also that a revolutionary attitude does not exist among the masses. It also shows that the government army, after 10 years of U.S. training, is an army whose military stance is defensive, not offensive (which is the key to U.S. military strategy.) While this all shows that there can only be a negotiated solution to the crisis, it is also true that precisely following the guerrilla offensive (and this is the paradox) the Army stiffened its stance against negotiations. I believe that sooner or later common sense will prevail and it will sit down at the negotiating table. At the end of November the U.S. secretary of state's assistant for Latin America spoke officially for the first time about the need for negotiations to resolve the crisis in El Salvador: This is an important sign of a changing situation.

Colonel Says Top Military Involved

PA1301044390 Paris AFP in Spanish 2112 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Text] San Salvador, 12 Jan (AFP)—Salvadoran Colonel Sigifredo Ochoa Perez today said that the masterminds of the six Jesuit priests' murder are not "soldiers or lieutenants," but are "much higher in the hierarchy."

"Regardless of whether it was a general or colonel, whoever masterminded this crime must be punished," the ranking leader of the ruling ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] party and retired officer said during a televised interview.

Those responsible for this multiple murder that took place on 16 November "are not soldiers or lieutenants," he said.

"This action involved much higher level officers, and even if a general or colonel is involved, (the culprits) must be punished," he pointed out.

He added: "We hope that it will not be as in the past when the masterminds are protected. As the saying goes: The little guys always pay."

Ochoa said that he is convinced that "investigations must be pursued" and that nobody should receive "special treatment," because "unfortunately, there are elements who are hurting the Army and the president, and the High Command have to purge them."

Ochoa, former deputy and current president of the state power company, described as "courageous" the decision of President Alfredo Cristiani to publicly admit that members of the Armed Forces massacred the six Jesuit priests and two women.

On 7 January, Cristiani officially acknowledged that military personnel killed the Jesuits, their cook, and the

cook's 15-year-old daughter. However, he refused to reveal the names of those involved to avoid hampering the investigation.

The colonel said: "We hope that the names will be revealed soon and that these people will be punished."

Observers believe that Ochoa's statements, which might suggest an internal struggle within the ruling ARENA, express an implicit wish to see this abominable crime resolved."

The retired colonel added that the "courageous" position of Cristiani regarding this case has brought him strong international support that is helping to strengthen the democratic process that the current president wants to promote.

Although Ochoa admitted that in El Salvador military power has been behind the real power and that trying a military man has been taboo, he said that Cristiani "is determined to intensify a purge of such elements from the Armed Forces."

He also admitted "that there are still Salvadoran military men who believe that they hold power and that they can use their rifles and the power that their weapons give them."

President Cristiani Postpones Trip to U.S.

PA1501234690 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2213 GMT 15 Jan 90

[Text] San Salvador, 15 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani today postponed his trip to the United States, which was scheduled for 16-23 January, until later this month, according to an announcement today by Information Secretary Mauricio Sandoval.

The presidential spokesman explained that the postponement of Cristiani's trip is due to the president's interest in meeting with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to request that Perez de Cuellar act as mediator to achieve the resumption of dialogue with the Salvadoran guerrillas.

"We have received information from New York to the effect that Perez de Cuellar will not be available on the dates initially set for the trip, thus, Cristiani's visit has been postponed, Sandoval said.

According to Sandoval, Cristiani will meet with Perez de Cuellar on 31 January, after which he will go to Washington in early February to meet with U.S. President George Bush.

Sandoval denied that the postponement of Cristiani's trip is related to possible reaction to the arrest of eight members of the Army, including four officers, on charges of being implicated in the murder of six Jesuit priests and two employees.

"There is no relation, because the case of the Jesuits is being resolved," the spokesman said.

Sandoval also denied that postponement of the trip is linked to the assassination of Hector Oqueli, a Salvadoran leader of the Socialist International, 3 days ago in Guatemala.

After learning of Oqueli's assassination, the guerrillas announced that they will "revise" their offer to resume the dialogue with the government. However, the presidential spokesman indicated that the guerrillas have sent no official note explaining the revision.

Perez de Cuellar Agrees To Act as Mediator

PA1301041290 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0311 GMT 13 Jan 90

[Text] UN spokesman Francois Guliani announced on 12 January that UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar has agreed to mediate in the Salvadoran conflict at the request of the government and the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front].

Guliani announced that the UN secretary general will meet with President Alfredo Cristiani, who will travel to the United States the week of 14 January. Perez de Cuellar, who is going to Moscow on 13 January and returning to New York on 18 January, will probably not meet with President Cristiani until the following week.

In the meantime, preparations are under way to establish the manner in which the secretary general will carry out his mission and how and where the negotiations will be conducted.

'Indications' of Talks Between Government, Rebels

PA1301203390 San Salvador Canal Seis Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 13 Jan 90

[Report by Nancy Perla]

[Text] Salvadoran Vice President Francisco Merino has described the possible resumption of dialogue between the government and the rebels as positive.

Merino said that the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] should not claim credit for the resumption of a dialogue because it was President Alfredo Cristiani who took the initiative in resuming the talks. Merino added that the rebels should abandon the delaying and irresponsible tactics regarding the dialogue because the FMLN has lost credibility both in the military sense and in international politics.

[Begin Merino recording] The FMLN has lost credibility in all of its activities, including military actions. The only valid alternative to pacify the country is for the rebels to stop hostilities, violence, and terrorism. We should jointly explore the possibilities of their joining the democratic process. [end recording]

He also said one of the alternatives readily available to the FMLN is to participate in the elections for delegates to the Central American parliament.

[Begin Merino recording] El Salvador has proposed at the Legislative Assembly to ratify the Central American parliament protocol. This would open the door for the special election of the Salvadoran delegates to the parliament. If a truly democratic willingness by the FMLN exists, this could be their first opportunity to participate. It has not yet been decided whether this election will be held before the 1991 official elections for mayors and deputies. The government and the FMLN could jointly consider the advantages of a special election this year. Then we could make preparations for the 1991 constitutional elections. [end recording]

Regarding the FMLN military actions, Merino said the government is familiar with the rebels' tactics, particularly when talks are being considered. He also said the rebels operate in cycles.

[Begin Merino recording] The government has never reacted naively to the FMLN terrorists' statements or their participation in the dialogue. We are fully aware of their plans and strategies. The government, however, bears the primary responsibility of seeking harmony and the citizens's security. [end recording]

After the rebels' counteroffensive in November, which was regarded as the largest military operation in the past 10 years, the possibility for a new dialogue has appeared in El Salvador once more, creating expectations, both here and abroad. The coming meeting of President Cristiani with United Nation's representatives, scheduled for next week, and the meeting on 12 January of a rebel delegation with a United Nations official seem to indicate that talks will be held shortly.

ARENA President Criticizes FMLN Proposal

PA1401015890 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 13 Jan 90 p 5

[Text] The new FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] proposal to stop fighting provided the U.S. Congress suspends aid to El Salvador is blackmail. With this, he said, the FMLN is showing to the international community that its members are plain terrorists.

This was said on 12 January by the ruling Nationalist Republican Alliance President Dr Armando Calderon Sol, who maintained that aspirations of the subsersives are "detestable," and, therefore, cannot be accepted.

The prominent political leader said that while in East Europe there is a true democratic revolution, the FMLN maintains its position of trying to subdue the people with a totalitarian plan through violent means. "History has left them behind and they (the terrorists) have not noticed it," he added.

Calderon Sol emphasized that FMLN leaders should reconsider the position they have maintained and should respect the judicial system because without it, no nation can achieve harmony and development.

The seditious "should understand that they are alone and that no one supports their anarchic plan," the ARENA president added. He recalled that during the terrorist aggression, the international community supported the Alfredo Cristiani government and the FMLN never received any support.

Calderon Sol stressed that the FMLN must provide real proof that it wants to reach peace through negotiated means, because President Cristiani has good intentions and wants to solve the conflict as soon as possible through talks.

The subversives must suspend the aggression against the people and the destruction of the national economy, because one cannot be at the negotiating table while the FMLN at the same time is preparing an offensive.

Chavez Mena Terms FMLN Proposal 'Positive'

PA1401174490 San Salvador Canal Seis Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Fidel Chavez Mena, secretary general of the Christian Democratic Party, has described as positive the proposal for dialogue that the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] presented today, saying that the document indicates a willingness to end the war in this country.

In a preliminary assessment of the guerrillas' proposal, Chavez said it should be noted that, despite a polarization of the armed conflict, the FMLN is still willing to continue the negotiation process. He said that the government's and the rebels' agreement to request the mediation of the UN secretary general is a significant step that indicates progress toward an agreement and a willingness for peace.

[Chavez] "What is truly important is that this willingness can crystallize in and be expressed through specific actions. Regarding the proposal, and as far as we have read it, I would say the true novelty in it is that, despite all that has happened, the rebels say they are willing to initiate a negotiation process and accept the UN secretary general's mediation."

According to this leader of the leading opposition party, the resumption of the dialogue should be accompanied by partial accords that include depolarization and the reduction of violence. Chavez pointed out the importance of resuming the talks, which were unilaterally suspended in October. He stressed, however, the need for nonsecret, private talks to discuss the main issues of the armed confrontation. Chavez thinks private meetings between the government and the FMLN are essential in the effort to find a common meeting ground and

achieve solutions. Such talks, Chavez said, have not been held during the administration of President Alfredo Cristiani.

[Chavez] "When these meetings are held with great publicity, the moment comes when the negotiators resemble Roman gladiators, who respond more to the factors and pressures of public opinion. In addition, this dialogue is necessary and very important. It is common practice in diplomatic relations and international negotiations to conduct certain negotiations, not in secret, but in private. I think these nonsecret, private meetings, where the agreements and disagreements among the three projects existing in the country can be debated in depth, are essential. Moreover, this type of meeting has not yet been held."

According to Chavez, one of the causes of the stagnation of the dialogue and the slow progress of the negotiation process is the conflict created by the inflexibility of the solution plans presented by the government and the FMLN. The positions contradict one another, and, on many points, diametrically opposed views prevail. Even worse, the people's democratic plan is overlooked.

[Chavez] "The main point is that the three political plans must be discussed to achieve a temporary, realistic, and viable consensus. Then the various plans can be submitted to referendum."

For Chavez, all Salvadorans must be involved in the peace process. The people have the right to demand progress in the pacification process, he says, and it is urgent that both the government and the FMLN express with concrete actions their willingness to talk toward peace.

FMLN Changes Tactics Following 'Failure'

PA1201230590 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2117 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] San Salvador, 10 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—A military source, quoting intelligence sources, said today that the Salvadoran guerrillas have abandoned their strictly military goals to instead direct their actions against economic targets, within their usual pattern of wearing down the economy.

The source attributed the change in tactics to the "failure" of the offensive launched by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) on 11 November, in which six guerrilla commanders and all guerrilla troops took part.

According to the FMLN, the offensive's goal was to negotiate with the government on a "one-to-one" basis. In the opinion of the Army, however, the FMLN was trying to cause an insurrection among the people to grab power.

The source, who requested anonymity, told ACAN-EFE that following the offensive, the FMLN decided to "readapt" their military cadres to the traditional "prolonged people's war."

Military intelligence believes that with this change in tactics, the guerrillas are trying to "maintain their military presence and thus raise the fighters morale following the disbanding of important military cadres."

Following the suspension of the unilateral truce decreed by the FMLN between 23 December and 2 January, the guerrillas restarted their actions against the country's economy by blowing-up the country's power grid and shops in San Salvador.

Economic losses last year due to guerrilla sabotage to the transport, power and telephone systems, and other infrastructures surpassed $100 million, according to official sources.

The source said that the military restructure encompassed the six organizations that comprise the FMLN: the Revolutionary Party of Central American Workers (PRTC), the National Resistance (RN), the Salvadoran Communist Party (PCS), the Popular Liberation Forces (FPL), the Armed Forces of Liberation (FAL), and the People's Revolutionary Army (ERP).

According to military intelligence, the PRTC, RN, and the PCS now operate in San Salvador and other important cities of the country, while the FPL operates in the central region, the ERP in the northeast, and the FAL in the southeast.

Relations With East European Nations Announced

PA1501012090 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 11 Jan pp 3,33

[Text] Official sources have reported that El Salvador will establish relations with Eastern Europe countries, meaning former communists nations which have been democratized, and that it will reorganize its foreign service to maintain the initiative in the foreign sector and counter the leftist groups' disinformation.

Deputy Foreign Minister Ricardo Valdivieso confirmed that 10 new ambassadors would be appointed before the end of the month to nations the locations of which are highly important for Salvadoran interests.

For diplomatic reasons, the deputy foreign minister refrained from mentioning in which countries the changes will occur or the identity of the new ambassadors.

Fellow citizens living abroad have reported a passive attitude or lack of interest by certain ambassadors to make the Salvadoran reality known.

The deputy foreign minister also said that there are still Christian Democratic Party members at embassy and consulate positions, and they are only interested in their

party rather than making the national truth known. Other Foreign Ministry sources have mentioned the name of the Salvadoran representative to the OAS.

Deputy Foreign Minister Valdivieso said that a "diplomatic offensive" recently launched by President Cristiani's government was very satisfactory and it will be followed up.

He recalled that Canadian officials told a delegation that the Salvadoran Government had taken too long to visit the country because Canadian authorities were interested in having good relations with the current government.

Referring to the Jesuits' case, Deputy Foreign Minister Valdivieso said that several governments are pleased with President Cristiani's decision to solve the crime. The president's image abroad has noticeably improved, too.

Valdivieso also said that the Salvadoran Government is quite interested in establishing relations with East European nations like Poland, a former communist nation which has taken a turn toward democracy and the capitalist system.

The deputy foreign minister described labor leader Lech Walesa as a "hero" because he was practically the seed that led to the achievement of new opportunities in Eastern Europe.

Union Demands Government Stop 'Manhunt'

PA1301192290 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2112 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] The main Salvadoran central union, the National Union of Salvadoran Workers (UNTS), demanded today that Alfredo Cristiani's government stop the "manhunt" against union, political, and religious organizations that it started after the rebel offensive.

Julio Cesar Portillo, member of the UNTS Executive Committee, demanded that the rightist government respect the right to organization, free movement, and return seized unions' headquarters as well as the equipment taken by the Army.

The Salvadoran Government established the state of siege that suspended freedom of organization, expression, and movement a few hours after the initiation of the guerrilla offensive on 11 November.

At a news conference at a San Salvador hotel, Portillo asserted that more than 400 workers are in the country's prisons and that approximately 2,000 public employees have been fired in the past months.

The union leaders told the media that UNTS is working in a "semi-clandestine" manner as the Army has occupied the unions' headquarters and accuses union leaders of having links with the guerrillas, and even of being "commanders" of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN.)

According to the UNTS leader, "after the guerrilla offensive, union, humanitarian, political, and religious organizations were surrounded by the Armed Forces, in most cases raided, and its leaders were persecuted and arrested."

The Army captured several union leaders, among them Juan Flores, who admitted that there were political links between UNTS and the FMLN when he appeared on Salvadoran television.

According to the Armed Forces, some UNTS leaders participated in armed actions and sabotage during the past guerrilla offensive.

Editorial Urges U.S. To Halt Military Aid

PA1401194290 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0019 GMT 13 Jan 90

[Editorial: "The U.S. Congress' Dilemma"]

[Text] The U.S. congressmen's worktables are filled with surprises. They are to renew their sessions in 2 weeks' time, and important matters are waiting to be discussed.

After the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] started its 11 November offensive which buried the Army's propagandistic claims that it had finished off the guerrillas, along came the great surprises in the East European countries, when they brought down walls without having to resort to military invasions and attained a democratic opening. Ending the year, the world was surprised with the brutal U.S. invasion of Panama.

Now, when the last decade of the century is about to begin, El Salvador adds another page to the book of last-minute surprises. Alfredo Cristiani himself—who, together with Armed Forces officers, said hours after the Jesuits and their maids had been murdered that there were suspicions that the FMLN could be involved in the massacre—has just accepted, especially for the benefit of the U.S. Congress, that Armed Forces personnel were the ones who murdered the top brains, the best intellectuals of El Salvador. The murderers were military personnel, and, at least on the national televison network, Cristiani promised to dislose their names. [passage indistinct] ...the Jesuits' murders or the cancellation of aid.

If it is true that the Army—which murdered Monsignor Oscar Romero, 1,000 peasants in El Mozote, 70 Indians in Las Hojas, hundreds of Salvadorans in Zunpu, and unionists at the FENASTRAS [Salvadoran Workers National Union Federation] offices, along with the rest of the Armed Forces' well-known crimes—is going to be purged at last, if this is really true, then we would have to say that a true negotiation will start. In the past, the FMLN has made proposals for negotiations to end the

war. One of our demands, a realistic demand to propitiate peace in El Salvador, is undoubtedly the purge of the Army. In Mexcio and in San Jose, Costa Rica, we said that if the government did not accept the FMLN's proposal, the nation would do so. And that is what has happened. The nation demands that the Armed Forces be purged.

The most important U.S. newspapers and newscasts have noted the irrefutable fact that 10 years of U.S. advice and an investment of more than $3 billion —very close to $4 billion—to create a huge buildup in their armaments have not served to change the mentality of an Army that murdered Monsignor Romero and thousands of civilians, including nuns and U.S. advisers. We believe Democratic Senator Christopher Dodd was mistaken when he said that U.S. aid in itself was not being discussed. The 10 years of aid, advice, and U.S. strategy in El Salvador have proven to be a failure. If the United States has any intentions of contributing to peace, now is the time to change its policy toward El Salvador.

Events have placed the issue of the continuation of aid to El Salvador on the congressmen's worktables. The aid was made conditional on punishment for the Jesuits' murders. But what is the order of the day? It is a decision that goes beyond a basic demand for justice. It will determine the continuation of U.S. aid. It entails the decision to turn their policy around to contribute to a political solution in El Salvador. They are to discuss whether Congress' position is to be: One, we approve the purge of the Army and thus we will give them more aid, or, two, we approve the purge as a concrete step to democratization and will suspend military aid so that these conditions can be used to reach a negotiated political solution.

Will U.S. congressmen be capable of surprising the world by helping the Salvadorans to topple the fascist wall, the wall of war? Will they do this by stopping military aid? The FMLN has said clearly that if the United States stops aid to the Army it will correspond with actions to reach a complete halt in hostilities. We hope the U.S. Congress does not make a mistake. If it stops aid, if it cuts it, if it ends it, we will stand before a clear and hopeful sign for peace. However, if not, we will stand before yet another sign of war, and the surprise will not be a good one.

Rebel Radio Reports Honduran Troop Incursion

PA1401012290 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 14 Jan 90

[Text] Honduran troops have again entered Salvadoran territory. This time it was at El Picacho village in the jurisdiction of Torola in Morazan Department. The Honduran troops terrorized and interrogated the local residents and then clashed with guerrilla units.

FMLN Issues Battle Reports

PA1601033390

[Editorial Report] (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador at 1800 GMT on 9 January carried 5-minutes of battle report, the first of which states that on 8 January at 1000, FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] units clashed with the Belloso Battalion in La Cruz and El Rincon hamlets within the jurisdiction of San Jose Guayabal. The fighting, according to the report, lasted until 1500, and the FMLN inflicted seven casualties on the Belloso Battalion. In response, the Army sent a battery of airplanes and helicopters, one of which, a C-47 airplane, was damaged by the FMLN and withdrew from the area. However, despite the Army's bombing, the FMLN did not suffer a single casualty.

In the same report, the FMLN points out that on 8 January at 1045, one each transportation and rocket-firing helicopter arrived at the El Encumbrado canton in Agua Caliente, Chalatenango Department, with supplies for a company of the "enemy" Azmitia Battalion. Near El Carrizal, the report continues, the transportation helicopter was damaged by an antiaircraft unit. The report goes on to describe how on the same day at 1300 an "enemy" patrol searching the vicinity of El Encumbrado was attacked and forced to flee in disarray. No Army casualties were confirmed.

The FMLN report broadcast on 9 January states that on 7 January at 0615, a guerrilla unit attacked 2d Brigade positions in Taguilapa canton, jurisdiction of Metapan, Santa Ana Department. One soldier was killed and one wounded, while the FMLN suffered no casualties whatsoever. On 6 January between 0000 and 0100, the report states, FMLN units entered the Santa Rosa and Vista Hermosa neighborhoods in Zacatecoluca, La Paz Department, where they sabotaged five power posts. Meanwhile, on 7 January at 1505, three soldiers were killed and three wounded when FMLN forces ambushed and totally destroyed a military vehicle on the Pan-American Highway near El Sitio hamlet in Apastepeque, San Vicente Department. The FMLN suffered no casualties.

Further reports indicate that on 8 January at 0100, an FMLN unit occupied Managua street in San Sebastian, San Vicente Department, where they blew up two power posts. The report goes on to say that at noon on 8 January, one soldier was seriously wounded when an FMLN unit staged a sniper attack on a Morazan Battalion unit near Cerro Los Coyotes in San Miguel.

(Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador at 1800 GMT on 11 January carries a 3-minute report which states that at 1630 GMT on 9 January, the FMLN clashed with the Belloso Battalion in La Cruz canton in San Jose Guayabal, killing one soldier and wounding four. All in all, the report states, the Belloso Battalion suffered eight casualties on 9 January. The report also states that on 10 January at 0900 the FMLN

attacked and inflicted three casualties on the Belloso Battalion in La Cruz canton. At 1300 that day, the FMLN waged battle with the Belloso Battalion in Los Matariegos, San Jose Guayabal, Cuzcatlan Department. The "enemy" suffered one casualty.

Venceremos goes on to report that on 8 January at 2300, an FMLN unit occupied Jocoro, Morazan Department, where it attacked two Treasury Police positions. The "enemy" fled in disarray, and for 4 hours the FMLN occupied the town and distributed propaganda.

San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish at 0300 GMT on 11 January cites an Armed Forces report to the effect that on 10 January two 6th Brigade soldiers were killed during a clash with rebels in Santa Elena, Usulutan Department, and two insurgents were killed and five wounded during clashes in Tenancingo, Cuzcatlan Department. The Army also reports that a Belloso Battalion troop was killed by rebels as he patrolled the areas surrounding San Jose Guayabal. Meanwhile, the report states, in La Laguna, Chalatenango Department, 4th Brigade troops seized 225 mines and a large assortment of material to manufacture explosives.

At 0000 GMT on 15 January, Vencereomos carried 7 minutes of battle reports. The first report indicates that in actions over the past 7 days in the vicinity of Santa Elena, Guazapa, San Salvador, El Queretal, Sesori, and Santa Ana, the "enemy" suffered 110 casualties, including three officers and nine noncommissioned officers. The FMLN, the report indicates, damaged 1 C-47 airplane and 3 helicopters, and seized 7 rifles with 5,200 rounds of ammunition, and 7 grenades. The report also states that 61 power utility structures were destroyed at enormous cost to the war economy.

The second report covers more recent incidents. On 13 January, it says, guerrilla units waged a sniper attack on a unit of the Azmitia Battalion near El Portezuelo hamlet in Agua Caliente, Chalatenango. "Enemy" casualties have not been confirmed. On the same day, FMLN units sabotaged the electrical tower that connects Talano to Opico in La Libertad Department. The rebels also sabotaged a power utility post along the road between Santa Ana and Tacachico.

Meanwhile, the report states, at 1700 on 13 January, the rebels held a meeting with residents of the hamlet of El Progreso. Another report indicates that FMLN units clashed with 6th Brigade troops in Hacienda Miramar and Hacienda San Luis in Santa Elena, Usulutan, inflicting eight casuaties on the "enemy," including dead and wounded. The Army requested air support and a battery of airplanes and helicopters were sent, which indiscriminately bombed the densely populated area. At 2000 on the same day, the Air Force directed mortar on the area; civilian casualties are being investigated.

A final report states that at 2200 on 13 January, FMLN and militia units blew up five power posts on the coastal highway near El Borboyon in San Miguel Department.

Guatemala

Government Condemns Killing of Political Leaders

PA1401004190 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2100 GMT 13 Jan 90

[Text] Guatemala City, 13 Jan (EFE)—The Guatemalan Foreign Ministry condemned today the assassination of leftist Salvadoran leader Hector Oqueli and Guatemalan political leader Gilda Flores.

Both bodies were found today in an area near Guatemala and El Salvador border after the victims were kidnapped in Guatemala City yesterday.

A Foreign Ministry communique "regrets and condemns" the assassination of Oqueli, assistant secretary of the Socialist International for Latin America and the Caribbean, and deputy secretary general of the National Revolutionary Movement (MNR), a leftist movement in El Salvador.

"We deeply regret the deaths of two valuable persons, and we condemn this act of violence," the note adds.

The document is the first official reaction to the kidnapping and assassination of both leaders.

Gilda Flores was an active member of the Democratic Socialist Party (PSD) of Guatemala, whose secretary general Mario Solorzano reported that "Salvadoran paramilitary groups" are carrying out actions in this country.

According to Solorzano, the incident "shows there is cooperation between paramilitary groups of both countries," because the perpetrators knew of Oqueli's arrival "and they staged an entire operation to kidnap him."

The bodies of the political leaders were found early this morning with shots through the temple in the Guatemalan town of Jalpatagua, near the border with El Salvador, Oqueli's relatives told EFE in El Salvador.

Oqueli arrived in Guatemala last Thursday. On Friday morning, while on his way to La Aurora Airport to catch a plane to Nicaragua, he was kidnapped by "heavily armed men," according to the MNR.

'Foreign Commando' Responsible

PA1401010290 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2200 GMT 13 Jan 90

[Text] Guatemala City, 13 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—Government Minister Carlos Morales said today that a "foreign commando" killed Hector Oqueli, leader of the Salvadoran leftist party National Revolutionary Movement (MNR), and Guatemalan Social Democratic leader Gilda Flores in Guatemala.

Morales said at a news conference held at the National Police headquarters that the intention of the "terrorist

commando" was capturing Oqueli alive to take him to El Salvador but that "something made them change their plans."

Morales stressed that the existence of the "foreign commando," the nationality and origin of whom he did not specify, has been known for months, adding that "it is responsible for many terrorist attacks."

Morales said that the group has killed several people and has carried out various bomb attacks in Guatemala. Asked about a statement by Social Democratic Party leader Mario Solorzano, who said that Salvadoran and Guatemalan paramilitary groups operate jointly in Guatemala, Morales said that "this is currently under investigation."

"We cannot say what country this terrorist commando came from; however, we have already taken measures to counter its activities in our national territory," he stressed.

Our government will not let this group "defame" Guatemala with its activities. There is already a special unit within the security forces in charge of locating the killers of Oqueli and Flores.

According to the initial reports received by the police, the kidnapping took place yesterday when Oqueli and Flores were heading to La Aurora Airport in this capital.

The vehicle in which they were traveling, which was found near the airport, was intercepted by another car, whose occupants forced Gilda Flores out of the car while Oqueli tried to escape, Morales said.

Honduras

U.S. Viewed As Not Valuing Azcona's Role

PA1501212590 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 11 Jan 90 p 5

[Editorial: "Credentials"]

[Text] There is a transcript of the speech delivered by U.S. Secretary of State Baker on occasion of the appointment of new U.S. Ambassador to Honduras Crescencio Arcos.

Secretary of State Baker expressed his concern over economic problems the Honduran people are facing and the need for the country to reach agreements with international credit institutions.

"New Honduran President Rafael Leonardo Callejas is aware of those problems," Baker said, adding that "he has expressed his intention to solve those problems by implementing the necessary measures." Baker made some recommendations to Ambassador Arcos concerning foreign policy and other points related to bilateral relations between the two countries.

Nowhere in his speech did he mention [Honduran President] Azcona. For example, he did not ask the new ambassador to give him his regards, or to thank him for everything he did during his term in favor of U.S. interests in the region.

Azcona feels that he has been a good friend of the U.S. Embassy. He believes that his cooperation was required when things did not go according to U.S. plans in other Central American countries.

Azcona has made great contributions toward the cause of democracy and many times he made it possible for U.S. interests to be known to the other presidents. Honduras supported some specific U.S. positions when the rest of the countries showed deaf ears and turned their backs on Washington.

Oscar Arias won a Nobel Peace Prize simply because he did not confront the gringos and did not follow their guidelines.

Whenever Oscar Arias refused to listen to them, who do you think the State Department asked the Embassy people to contact? The Honduran president.

However, during the last months of his administration, the gringos forgot their friend Jose Azcona. They would not give him the 70 million [currency not specified], not even a small part of the total amount. They retained the entire sum, to deliver it to Callejas.

During the last months of Azcona's mandate, no U.S. ambassador was appointed. The U.S. mission was headed by the second in line. The U.S. Embassy officials' nonsense reached the point that several times, losing his patience, Azcona threatened to declare them persona non grata. Over and over again they recommended ecomomic measures, always giving their opinion, and meddling in everything.

Tremendous pressure was exerted on Azcona to force him into accepting IMF terms.

Over the past few months of tension, the Embassy and State Department forgot everything Azcona did for the contras and other nasty things the U.S. Government wanted to maintain in the region.

They forgot their friend. To the point that Secretary Baker did not even mention him in his speech. As if he did not even exist and as if the other one, the one who has not yet been installed, was already the president. Baker should have said: "Go talk with Callejas, but make sure to give a cordial hello to our good friend Azcona, so that he will not feel resentful." That gesture would have saved a lot of trouble.

However, it did not happen that way. That is the way things are. It happened to Suazo, too. Our blond allies only care about the future.

The past belongs to the past. Even those who have served them well receive a "Thank you very much... and goodbye." [preceding words in English]

Maybe that is why Azcona has refused to receive the credentials of the new ambassador.

Presidents Confirm Attendance at Inauguration

PA1501163690 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1636 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 10 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—Costa Rican President Oscar Arias and Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez confirmed today their attendance at new Honduran President Rafael Leonardo Callejas' inauguration on 27 January.

A Honduran Foreign Ministry spokesman said that approximately 10 Latin American presidents, including the presidents of Guatemala, El Salvador, Costa Rica, and Nicaragua, will possibly attend Callejas' inauguration.

U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle has also confirmed his attendance.

Callejas, leader of the opposition National Party since 1981, was elected president on 26 November 1989; he will be the third Honduran president to consecutively assume power since 1982, following 2 decades of military governments.

The 46-year-old National Party leader, described as a "moderate conservative," will replace Liberal Party's Jose Azcona Hoyo and will rule for 4 years.

* 1990 Budget Approved by Congress

90EM0062A San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 4 Dec 89 p 3

[Text] Tegucigalpa—An increase of 15 million lempiras for the Armed Forces is called for in the draft National Budget of Revenue and Expenditures for 1990, which amounts to 2,577,182,174 lempiras, representing a 405.7 million increase over this year's figure.

The budget approved by the National Congress for the current fiscal year totaled 2,171,886,850 lempiras, but the amount approved is one thing and the amount executed is something else. During the course of the year congressmen approve millions in extra-budgetary funds on their own initiative or at the request of the Executive Branch.

The national budget executed in 1989 has not yet been estimated; however, the rise in the fiscal deficit with the approval of extra-budgetary appropriations is obvious.

The "fathers of our country," especially the liberals, submitted many proposals for budget expansions in order to make a good impression on their fellow party members during this political year, which culminated in the holding of general elections on 26 November.

According to the budget bill for fiscal year 1990, prepared by the Secretariat of Planning, Coordination, and Budget (Secplan), a budget of 165 million is recommended for the Armed Forces; in other words, 15 million lempiras more than this year's figure, namely, 150 million. This sum is channeled through the Defense Ministry.

Requested for the Ministry of Public Education is 480.7 million lempiras, reflecting an increase of over 60 million compared with this year's budget, and putting this area on the top level of the state structure.

The bill also requests a budget of 27.1 million lempiras for the Legislative Branch, a reduction of 800,000 compared with the 1989 total; and 24.5 million for the Judicial Branch, the same as this year's figure.

The budget for the Ministry of the Presidency of the Republic, one of the institutions to be closed according to the promises made by the president-elect, Rafael Leonardo Callejas, during his political campaign, totals 13.1 million lempiras, or 5 million less than that approved in 1989.

According to the bill, the public debt amounts to 751 million, with an increase of 100 million over this year's budget. For the Secretariat of Culture and Tourism (Sectur), another state institution threatened with closure, a budget of 8 million has been requested: 2 million more than the amount approved in 1989.

A budget of 20 million lempiras has been sought for the National Election Tribunal, that is, 16 million less than the total approved during this fiscal year.

Other state institutions have received sizable increases in the budget bill prepared by Secplan. Its discussion by the Congress will begin next week, with the suggestions made by the new government.

Nationalist leaders have reported that they are currently analyzing this draft budget, and announced that they will adapt it to the requirements of the new public administration.

Nicaragua

Investigations Conclude Contras Killed Nuns

PA1301034090 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 12 Jan 90 pp 1, 4

[Communique by the Defense and Interior Ministries' Public and Foreign Relations Directorates issued in Managua on 11 January]

[Text] The Defense and Interior Ministries hereby issue a report on the results of the exhaustive investigations conducted by the Special Commission created by both ministries relating to a contra ambush carried out on 1 January 1990 in which nuns Maureen Courtney of the United States and Teresa Rosales Dixon, of Miskito

origin, were killed and Msgr Pablo Smith and nun Francisca Collomer Kramer were wounded.

1. On 1 January 1990, the aforementioned religious leaders departed from Siuna for Rosita at approximately 1730. They were ambushed at 1845 by a contra group composed of 60 men headed by Evaristo Aguinaga, alias "Ruben," at a place known as Ojo de Agua, about 43 km east of Siuna.

2. Early on 2 January, Jaime Arauz Lopez, 20, and Ronald Dolores Mairena Sovalbarro, 16, arrived at Battalion 3701 in Coperna, 35 km east of Siuna and reported the following:

a) At 1400 on 1 January 1990, they were kidnapped in Coperna Abajo by a contra group headed by Evaristo Aguinada (Ruben), whom they know personally because they are from that region. They were taken to Ojo de Agua, where the contras prepared an ambush. They were under the surveillance of one of the contras, but managed to escape when he became distracted during the criminal attack, and they remained in hiding all night.

b) At 0630 on 2 January 1990, they arrived at the home of Hipolito Gutierrez, where the victims of the terrorist action had been taken.

c) They decided to present themselves at Battalion 3701 to inform the authorities of their kidnapping and to report the ambush they had witnessed in Ojo de Agua.

3. The authors of those criminal actions have been fully identified.

In view of the criminal actions encouraged by the U.S. Government, the Sandinist People's Army and the Interior Ministry will comply with their duty of pursuing and facing those who carry out terrorist actions to create chaos, terror, and death.

Issued in Managua on 11 January 1990, Year of Peace and Reconstruction.

Defense Ministry's Public and Foreign Relations Directorate

Interior Ministry's Public and Foreign Relations Directorate

Defense Ministry Reports Latest Contra Actions

PA1301023190 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 12 Jan 90 p 5

[Text] A Defense Ministry communique has stated that the contras continue to kill civilians and have increased their actions against the rural population. The communique charges that 5 people were murdered, 9 others were seriously wounded, and 12 were abducted in clashes that took place in Jinotega and Chontales Departments 2 - 9 January.

The communique states that the contras continue to carry out terrorist actions aimed at disrupting the electoral process. The communique adds that on 3 January a civilian stationwagon was ambushed in Las Trincheras, 2 km from Jinotega. As a result, one civilian was killed and another was wounded.

On 4 January, another group of mercenaries ambushed a civilian vehicle in Las Bolsas, 4 km southeast of San Rafael del Norte, Jinotega Department, killing two civilians and wounding four others. In this last action, Domingo Diaz and Roger Gonzalez Acuna were killed while Rafael Raudez, Cipriano Galeano, Rafael Lovo, and Jeffer Hernandez, a member of the regional FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] committee, Region I, were wounded.

The Defense Ministry also reports that between 2 and 9 January, nine clashes occurred in Jinotega, Matagalpa, and Chontales Departments, and in the South Atlantic Autonomous Region, as part of an effort to prevent the counterrevolutionaries from sabotaging the electoral system.

In these clashes, 9 contras were killed and the government troops seized 5 AK rifles, 18 cartridges, 3 mines, 1 RPG-7, 1 FAL rifle, 3 communications radios, 4 blankets, 4 backpacks, and 2 canteens. No Armed Forces casualties were reported.

Commander Arce Rejects U.S. 'Campaign'

PA1301001590 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 2009 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Report on speech by Commander of the Revolution Bayardo Arce at the Olaf Palme Convention Center in Managua on 11 January]

[Text] Before about 1,500 FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] cadres at the Olaf Palme Convention Center last night, Commander of the Revolution Bayardo Arce Castano rejected and described as false claims that the revolutionary government is blocking the entrance into Nicaragua of U.S. Government financial aid for UNO [National Opposition Union], the rightist Somozist alliance.

Arce asssured that this is another campaign forged in the United States that Managua newspaper LA PRENSA is supporting. The Sandinist leader said that the U.S. Government has been channeling aid to UNO via the NED [National Endowment for Democracy] since 1984. He added that $35 million from that U.S. organization has entered the country illegally via LA PRENSA, Radio Catolica, Radio Corporacion, the so-called Bar Association, the 22 January Mothers' Movement, and the political parties of Agustin Jarquin, Silviano Matamoros, and Miriam Arguello which are not legally established and thus cannot legally receive aid.

He said that members of Civic Way, such as its president Dr Carlos Quinones and Gilberto Cuadra, among others,

would not contribute a penny from their own pockets to pay for advertisements placed in newspapers, on radio stations, and on roadside billboards.

Arce pointed out that the U.S. Government bit off more than it could chew by directly financing UNO parties in Nicaragua because this involves serious administrative-bureaucratic controls. He denounced the fact that, to avoid giving 50 percent of the money received to the Supreme Electoral Council, as mandated by electoral law, UNO has created an organization—to which it claims it is not linked—called the Institute for the Promotion of Electoral Control, IPCE, the members of which are Alfredo Cesar, Silviano Matamoros, Miriam Arguello, Agustin Jarquin, and Luis Sanchez.

He added that the IPCE has already received $1.6 million despite not being legally established and has not been able to legally receive $300,000, because it was registered as a civil society, which according to Nicaraguan law, is a profit-making organization, and no such organization is authorized to receive donations.

As opposed to other opposition parties, which have foundations such as the Manolo Morale Foundation and the Jose Dolores Estrada Foundation, UNO lacks a nongovernmental organization and continues to illegally receive money, Commander Arce claimed.

He also denounced a U.S. ploy in Germany, where it published a report to discredit the leaders of the Sandinist revolution. He said this campaign was so crass that the FRG Government, a U.S. ally in the blockade against Nicaragua, said it had nothing to do with the report, and that it came from the United States. Arce noted that the United States is trying to create the conditions to act as it did in Panama. He called on his cadres to redouble efforts and to increase creativity in campaign tasks to obtain an overwhelming victory over the pro-U.S. Somozist opposition in the 1990 elections.

The commander noted that the current generation of Sandinists must work in the same way the 1979 generation did, that is, fighting decisively and nonstop, with talent and creativity. With 1 month and 13 days to go before the new Sandinist victory over Somozism, we expect the same quality and same devotion and sacrifice of the 1979 Sandinist generation, many of whom are also participating in this electoral campaign, he noted. We must be confident of victory, but we should not rest on our laurels, Arce Castano advised. He said that the election results must leave no doubt that the majority of Nicaraguan people have a commitment to the revolution, are active participants in this political process, and want to continue toward developing the revolution.

Citing the latest poll by the UCA [Central American University] and a U.S. institute, Arce Castano said that the decision to vote for the FSLN has increased all over the country by 10 percent, while the number voting for UNO has gone down, so the FSLN leads UNO by a three to one margin. He referred to the importance of winning in an overwhelming way to deprive the United States of any pretext to use the unexpected and abusive policy it used in Panama. However, he noted that the peril of an invasion cannot be ruled out. The commander said that the Sandinist government is not happy with the $3 million the U.S. Government is assigning to the CIAV [International Support and Verification Commission] for the contra demobilization, because the United States has allocated $50 million for the contras.

Arce called on all Sandinist militants and supporters not to fall for provocations in the final stretch of the electoral campaign, because those who want to boycott the elections stand to gain the most by it. Next, we will air Commander Arce's remarks:

[Begin Arce recording] The problem is that with the aid, the United States got itself into deep trouble [se metieron en camisa de once varas], as we Nicaraguans say. At least as far as we know, based on our official records, in 1984 the United States was already sending economic aid to rightist groups and parties in Nicaragua. From 1984 to June - July of this year [as heard] the U.S. Government, through a democratic foundation called the NED, had channelled at least $35 million to the Nicaraguan opposition.

The funds were introduced illegally, because those who received the aid here were illegal groups. The money was sent here for LA PRENSA, Radio Catolica, Radio Corporacion, the so-called Bar Association, the so-called 22 January Mothers' Movement, the [words indistinct] for the parties of Agustin Jarquin, Miriam [Arguello] and [name indistinct]. Most of the groups did not have legal status, including the Bar Association, the Mothers' Movement, and the parties that followed the line of [name indistinct] and Agustin, which only acquired their legal status with the new electoral law. Since it was not decent or legal for them to receive the aid, it was sent to them clandestinely. The remittances are registered in the NED's accounting records in the United States.

Only this year, almost $8 million was approved for those groups, as well as for new organizations they created, such as the so-called Civic Way, which is not a legal organization, as it lacks legal status, but still receives funds.

We have known all along that this ...[changes thought] First, it is difficult to determine how the funds entered. It could have been through a diplomatic pouch or brought in by foreigners, as this is a country where many people come and go. The other day we learned that money for the Civic Way came through a company owned by someone by the name of Geronimo Sejeira. However, from a legal viewpoint, it would be difficult to prove this in a courtroom.

From the political standpoint, we have faced the situation that if you stare at a rightist too long, he will say you want to kill him. [laughter] Therefore, we have to be very cautious about controlling the illegal activities of the [word indistinct].

However, all of a sudden ...[changes thought] That is the reality, and this explains why we either harvest or [word indistinct] here. This explains to our people how this Civic Way operates, publishes paid ads in the newspapers, puts ads on the radio, [words indistinct] on the roads, distributes money to youths who claim they work for the Civic Way, and [words indistinct].

Where would [name indistinct] get the money? He is the one who appears as president of [name indistinct], a former CONAPRO [National Confederation of Professional Associations]. I am sure he would not give one cent out of his own pocket for any cause. Where would Gilberto Cuadra get the money to pay for all those things? Where did the people of COSEP [Higher Council of Private Enterprise] and that Bar Association, the members of which are most of the time traveling abroad [words indistinct]? Those funds were introduced illegally.

Now the gringos have decided to do something they have never done before, or have very seldom done—give money directly to a party, financing one of the contenders in the elections. If I am not mistaken, the only experience they had was in [words indistinct]. Now they have decided to finance UNO and approved aid for $9 million, as we all know. However, since this is unusual, it has prompted a large debate in the U.S. Congress, which approved the $9 million under special conditions on how those funds must be spent, as the gringos are very strict when approving public funds. Therefore, for an entire month after the funds were approved by the U.S. Congress, the NED had to prepare a plan in the United States detailing how those funds would be spent, so that the U.S. Government can be informed later. After that, it took them almost a month here to organize a team to supervise and manage the funds.

Not too long ago...[changes thought] Since this report was published yesterday, we began to investigate [word indistinct] President Ortega [words indistinct] called me to inform me about these things. We know that so far the [word indistinct] funds [word indistinct] $400,000, which we understand were deposited 3 days ago, on 9 January. They also deposited a check, so the Central Bank is waiting for them to cash the check to [words indistint]. [end recording]

FRG Embassy Says U.S. Discredited Sandinists

PA1201222890 Paris AFP in Spanish 0144 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] Managua 10 Jan (AFP)—The FRG Embassy in Nicaragua said today that an FRG newspaper's report on the alleged corruption of some Sandinist leaders "was promoted by U.S. sources."

The statement attributed to the German mission, and published in the newspaper LA PRENSA, puts in doubt the article published on 4 January in the Frankfurt newspaper ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG which claimed that Daniel Ortega and other Sandinist leaders have business interests abroad.

The note states that "The Federal Republic of Germany does not have any information in this regard," adding that the accusations "have been promoted for some time by U.S. sources."

Commander Bayardo Arce, a member of the FSLN National Directorate, this morning said that his government is filing suit against the paper, challenging it to "duly prove" its report.

Arce considers it a "farce" mounted by the CIA to discredit the electoral process that will culminate with elections on 25 February.

Arce Reaction

PA1201224790 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] The leaders of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] have lessened the importance of an article published by the newspaper of the Yankee embassy in Managua [Nicaraguan newspaper LA PRENSA] that was taken from a weekly FRG newspaper. The article was intended to link the main Sandinist leaders to illegal financial activities.

Nicaraguan Commander Bayardo Arce, vice coordinator of the FSLN Executive Commission, stated that such work is known in intelligence services as a rebound operation [operacion de rebote]. Arce added that the work serves as a pretext to carry out an armed invasion.

Inside Nicaragua, that type of work is designed to harm the election process, and abroad it contributes toward the U.S. policy of justifying armed intervention, Arce said.

Commander Arce indicated that the Nicaraguan Embassy in the FRG officially asked the FRG newspaper to present evidence of the information it reported to then decide what legal measures to adopt against the newspaper. That paper is letting itself be used for the CIA rebound operation, Arce added.

Commander Arce Visits With UN Representative

PA1301151490 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Text] Elliot Richardson, personal representative of UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, has described as very positive the 2-hour meeting he held with Commander Bayardo Arce on 12 January.

According to the UN official, he and Arce discussed, among other things, the relations between Nicaragua and the United States and, particularly, the U.S. Government's interference with the Nicaraguan electoral process. Regarding what he saw during his visit, Richardson had this to say:

[Begin recording] [Richardson] We think it is important for the leaders of all parties to try to reduce violence during the electoral campaign and increase the people's cooperation with authorities. In addition, certain steps of the electoral process must be completed, such as organizing a large number of supervisors [fiscales] at places where there had not been any. They have to be trained in the various regions by the Supreme Electoral Council. [end recording]

Commander Arce reiterated the Sandinist National Liberation Front's concern over the effect that the counterrevolutionary armed escalation and the U.S. Government's actions to prevent normal development might have on the electoral process.

Opposition Rejects Coalition Government Proposal

PA1401171190 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2300 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Text] Nicaragua's opposition political leaders have rejected the idea of a coalition government and claim that it is impossible to establish one. Leaders of the anti-Sandinist National Opposition Union, UNO, said today that the idea of establishing a national unity government is impossible, especially if it involves the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN].

A few days ago, Vice President Sergio Ramirez said a concerted national effort is needed to bring the country out of its economic stagnation, and National Assembly Secretary Rafael Solis has on various occasions said a coalition government is needed and that the FSLN cannot govern on its own.

However, Agustin Jarquin Anaya, leader of the Christian Democratic Party within UNO, said a coalition government is difficult to achieve and the opposition should assume a more serious role.

Meanwhile, Bar Association President Roger Guevara said it is premature to talk about this when the country is involved in an electoral process. Here are their comments:

[Begin recording] [Jarquin] The only way to push Nicaragua forward is democratization, but the ruling party has not yet given any signs that it wants this. Quite the contrary, it has intensified a policy of repression and pressure against those citizens who express their opposition to the government. Therefore, there are no conditions to establish such a government. At any rate, UNO is committed to participating in the elections to allow the people to vote freely for the first time in Nicaraguan history and thus choose their rulers. This should be emphasized. This is prevailing criteria within UNO: There is no possibility for a national coalition government.

[Reporter] Does this mean the FSLN would become an opposition party and have nothing do with government decisions and duties after the 25 February elections?

[Anaya] After 25 February, the FSLN will become an opposition party. We will allow it to assume a responsible attitude as an opposition party, because in that capacity it will have a prominent role to play. We will grant to the opposition party, in this case the FSLN, the privileges that we have been demanding for the people, including freedom of speech and an end to harassment, which they are using against us now. We would like to create an appropriate atmosphere to work together for Nicaragua's recovery. We hope the FSLN will understand the role that it will be called to play beginning on 25 February.

[Reporter] Here is Dr Roger Guevara Mena, UNO international liaison official. Dr Guevara, what is your opinion about the proposal made by Sandinist Government spokesmen to create a national coalition government that would include the opposition and FSLN?

[Guevara] It is too premature to talk about a coalition government at a time when the people are about to determine with their vote the government team and government system they prefer.

We believe this is a tactic to discourage the opposition and, above all, to make the rank and file believe the opposition will lend itself to another kind of (?subterfuge). We believe the people will determine the fate of all Nicaraguans on 25 February. Honest elections will establish a new political situation and facilitate a new analysis and practice that could well be high-level talks between the opposition as the new government and the FSLN as the losing party, which would certainly have a place at the National Assembly. [end recording]

President Ortega Delivers Campaign Speeches

Speech in Jalapa

PA1201190290 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Today approximately 15,000 Jalapa residents greeted President Daniel Ortega, who concluded a tour that included Palacaguina and Alaguina.

In 2 days, the president toured Yalaguina, Totogalpa, Palacaguina, and Jalapa.

In a frank and broad dialogue, President Ortega urged producers of the region to assume a patriotic attitude on 25 February.

[Ortega, in progress] "...even those who have been involved in contra activities, I urge you to change your position, once and for all."

The recent killing of two nuns confirmed the U.S. desire to continue the war, Ortega stressed:

[Ortega] "I can tell Jalapa that on this day, 11 January, that this year, 1990, we will have peace in Nicaragua. We

will end the war in Nicaragua whether the Yankees like it or not, whether the contras like it or not, or whether the UNO [National Opposition Union] likes it or not."

He invited Jalapa residents and the people of Nicaragua to vote for the Nicaraguans' peace and welfare.

[Ortega] "Viva the heroes and martyrs. [crowd shouts: Viva!] Viva the heroic mothers." [crowd shouts: "Viva!"]

Speech in La Paz Centro

PA1501140990 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1206 GMT 15 Jan 90

[Text] Before more than 15,000 people who acclaimed him in La Paz Centro, President Daniel Ortega warned on 14 January that the National Opposition Union, UNO, could withdraw from the elections. He stressed that there will be elections in Nicaragua on 25 February, even against the Yankees' will.

They would use any pretext, because they know they are already defeated, Daniel said, adding that the people are already voting for the Sandinist National Liberation Front in massive demonstrations such as the one in La Paz Centro.

Later on, upon returning to Managua, Daniel told journalists that there are some indications that UNO could withdraw from the elections on order from the United States. We would not be surprised, he said, because there was a precedent for a similar action when the Ramiro Sacasa Democratic Coordinating Board abstained from the 1984 elections on orders from the U.S.

Ortega said UNO's withdrawal would be encouraged to affect the credibility of the electoral process. However, he stressed that the presence of many international observers here would make this attempt to boycott the electoral process fail.

In La Paz Centro the majority of the people—who were producers, workers, housewives, teachers, professionals, craftsmen, and youths—reacted to Daniel's words by raising their hands to show confidence in a Sandinist victory.

While the impressive rally was taking place, U.S. Embassy representatives took pictures of the large demonstration, as they did in El Sauce. We do not mind their spying on us, because in that way they can measure the strength of our people, who are determined to fight back if attacked, President Ortega stressed.

Speech in Tisma

PA1501235990 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2238 GMT 15 Jan 90

[Speech by President Daniel Ortega in Tisma, Masaya Department, on 15 January—live or recorded; broadcast in progress]

[Text] ...can achieve the Nicaraguan family's reconciliation. The Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] has had the strength to release and pardon many guards who were in prison. It has had the strength to tell the contras in Honduras to come to Nicaragua and work in peace. The FSLN's actions are not prompted by hatred or revanchism, but by feelings of true peace.

While the revolution's enemies, those who have joined with the contras, UNO [National Opposition Union], the Somozists, and the Yankees shout: They must go!—referring to the FSLN—the FSLN says: Let them come! In other words, there is a huge difference between us.

Their actions are prompted by hatred, ours by true Christianity. They claim to be Christians, but they do not behave like Christians. They say we are not Christians, but we behave like Christians. The FSLN is the party that has included all sectors of society on its lists of deputy and council candidates.

The people must be told that they may be confused: Look friend, you are confused. The only option is the FSLN; look at the FSLN's candidates. Here is so-and-so, there is so-and-so, look at their names and surnames. This one is a laborer, that one a farmer, and they are FSLN candidates. This other comrade is an industry laborer, and look at this other comrade who is a small producer; this other comrade is a medium-scale producer, this other one is a large-scale producer, this one was even a liberal or a conservative, but he is a Nicaraguan and he is an FSLN candidate. This one is a doctor, this other a professional, the other a singer, a nurse, a teacher; in other words, the FSLN's lists of candidates represent Nicaraguan society in its entirety, they include Catholic clergymen and Evangelical clergymen—the FSLN's is the slate of unity.

Therefore, this afternoon I am inviting all the people of Tisma, those who have gathered at this square and those who are at home listening to me on the radio, to vote for peace on 25 February at booth 5. I invite you to vote at booth 5 on 25 February in favor of the Nicaraguan family's reconciliation. I invite you to vote on 25 February for Nicaragua's unity, so Nicaragua can succeed with all your votes at booth 5. I invite you on 25 February to vote for peace, love, and Christianity in Nicaragua, with all your votes at booth 5. I invite all of you to vote for Daniel, to vote for Tisma, to vote for Nicaragua on 25 February at booth 5.

Long live the people of Tisma! Long live the people of Tisma! We have won! We have won! [Crowd responds by repeating his words].

Everything will be better; free fatherland! [Crowd's words indistinct] Long live Sandino! Long live Nicaragua!

UNO Candidates Resign, Complain of Corruption

PA1201223790 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Text] Nine candidates for councilmen of the ultrarightist National Opposition Union [UNO] resigned yesterday at the Supreme Electoral Council because of the corruption and lack of honesty that prevails in the UNO, a coalition promoted by Washington.

The candidates who resigned are: Mercedes Oliva, Alicia Paguaga, Luis Alberto Lopez, Nubia Moncada, and Luz Amelia Santelis of Region 1; and Luis Lopez Cruz, Donald Cruz, Nubia Guerrero, and Miguel Sevilla of Region 5.

Some of them said they were included on the list of candidates without any previous consultation. Others said they resigned because of mismanagement of the funds the United States is sending to UNO, and because of the strong ties between UNO leaders and the Somozist contras.

Former Contra Leader Opposes U.S. Aid to RN

PA1401234090 Paris AFP in Spanish 0237 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] Managua, 10 Jan (AFP)—Former anti-Sandinist leader Luis Fley [words indistinct] Nicaraguan Resistance (RN) because "it only brings blood and death" for Nicaraguans.

Fley, who returned to Nicaragua on 8 January following 9 years of struggling against the Nicaraguan Government, said at a news conference that Washington's financing of his former comrades-at-arms "must be suspended," because the armed option "is frozen."

He also said other RN members have understood the new situation "and are negotiating their return with the Sandinist Government" to participate in the nation's political life.

Nevertheless, he refused to disclose the names of those who are planning to surrender, but gave assurances that they are awaiting "further guarantees" from the Sandinists before doing so.

However, the former rebel chief admitted that the same guarantees under which he returned are valid for those contras who want to lay down their weapons.

Among the "guarantees" demanded by the RN, Fley emphasized a demand for the release of approximately 5,000 prisoners who are presumably in Sandinist jails.

In contrast to this report, Commander Bayardo Arce, a member of the Sandinist executive branch, said on 10 January that according to official information from the International Red Cross, there is a total of 1,300 political prisoners in Nicaragua.

Accompanied by four of the nine contras who returned to Nicaragua with him, Fley said that the group is a sort of "exploratory squad" that will report whether or not conditions are sufficiently adequate to merit leaving the rebel camps in Honduras.

So far, Fley admitted, "we feel well and have not been threatened," and he explained that he has not yet decided which party to join to participate in the electoral process that will culminate with the elections on 25 February.

Nevertheless, Fley said that for the time being he is inclined toward the National Opposition Union (UNO), "because it has brought together 14 parties that are struggling for democracy."

PPSC Leader Condemns Members on UNO Payroll

PA1501014090 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] Politicians from the Popular Social Christian Party [PPSC] who appear on the payroll of shame as UNO [National Opposition Union] and U.S. Government wage-earners, will never again put their feet inside the PPSC's headquarters, says Mauricio Diaz.

Diaz, PPSC secretary general, said that his political organization will take the necessary steps, which include, among other things, expulsion from the party.

[Begin Diaz recording] In my opinion, that is not UNO's payroll; it is the payroll of the U.S. Congress. There are individuals listed on that payroll whose names are accompanied by the PPSC's acronym. They are in violation of a resolution issued by the national directorate. Furthermore, only one individual on the list belongs to the party. The rest are wage-earners whom we do not know, who were probably placed on the payroll because they claimed to be members of this party.

I believe that those who have decided to put themselves up for hire—because this is described as putting oneself up for hire here in Nicaragua and in Capernaum—should really display a little modesty. They should be ashamed of themselves, if there is still any shame left in them, because if there is one thing this organization rejects it is the policy of intervention. Even if UNO does not have any relationship with the contras, UNO is an interventionistic plan sponsored by the United States in Nicaragua. The people on the payroll will never again—because of the very fact that they are on that payroll of shame—be authorized to set foot inside this party's headquarters. [end recording]

Radio Catolica Denies Efforts To Proselytize

PA1501024590 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] Msgr Bismarck Carballo Madrigal, director of Radio Catolica, the Catholic Church's official radio station, this morning reported moves to terminate the

station's radio newscasts, particularly those related to politics. He said that the station is pluralist, like the workshops where all political leaders participate, and that the government apparently wants Radio Catolica to imitate the reporting pattern of Ondas de Luz radio station. This is Msgr Carballo:

[Begin Caraballo recording] Radio Catolica at this time wants to reaffirm it has a duty to be the voice of the voiceless. Because of its efforts to be faithful toward this duty, the station has been persecuted and closed for extended periods. If we fail to obey this duty faithfully, we would betray our reason for being, which was established 29 years ago. In the electoral campaign, we wanted to make a contribution by shedding light with doctrine so Nicaraguans can assume the unavoidable responsibility of choosing a better future.

This is why we have made our programs available for airing the political views of the various parties. We have organized workshops so politicians can present their views and the people can be sufficiently informed to make a decision. We have invited all sectors. All who desired to do so have come. Others, such as the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] presidential candidate, have turned down the invitation. We have made our station programs available for advertising. We have invited all those willing to invest in advertising to sign contracts with us. We have not intended to proselytize, an activity which could mar the station's image. This is why we specify that such spaces are paid advertisements.

Today we want to report the dirty, dark work of those who, protected by the electoral law, have been saying this radio station violates this law. These people are paving the road to pounce on this station. In the eyes of international observers, we have been portrayed as violators of the electoral law. These people, however, are overlooking the fact that we are the ones who, backed by the Church's credibility, have made valuable contributions to this people's civic education.

We want to reassert that we are not proselytizing. We are hereby reporting those who want to censure or silence the voice of the Church. [end recording]

Social Christian Party Official on Elections

PA1501163890 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 10 Jan 90 p 8

[Text] Mauricio Diaz Davila, member of the National Reconciliation Commission, has said that the National Opposition Union [UNO] stands a good chance of winning the February elections, but the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] has been conducting crafty surveys.

My estimate is that UNO might lead in the elections, the FSLN would come in second, and the Social Christian Party [PSC] would come in far behind as the country's third largest force, he said.

Diaz, who abandoned organized opposition at UNO for personal reasons, entered his name as candidate for deputy on the PSC lists. Nevertheless, 45 days prior to the elections, Diaz reached the conclusion that no opposition force other than UNO could defeat the Sandinists.

A few days ago, the Social Christian politician presented a proposal to the public whereby "all of the leaders participating in the elections should make a commitment to achieve a political compromise to ensure a bloodless transition to democracy after the elections are over," he told LA PRENSA.

"It is necessary for the loser, whether it is the FSLN or UNO, to acknowledge the other one's victory. Also, the winner must promise to base his political platform on establishing peace to rebuild Nicaragua. Finally, I maintain that there cannot be national reconstruction without reconciliation. It is we, the Nicaraguan people, who will rebuild this country," Diaz said further.

To achieve these political goals, Diaz has proposed to hold a national dialogue prior to the February 1990 elections. "If UNO wins, FSLN will become the most dangerous opposition party in Nicaragua's history, because it is an armed party. If, on the contrary, the FSLN wins, it will be tempted to reinforce its totalitarianism in our country. This is why a preliminary dialogue is necessary," Diaz said.

Norwegian Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit

PA1301191290 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1809 GMT 13 Jan 90

[Text] Managua, 13 Jan (DPA)—Norwegian Foreign Minister Kjell Magne Bondevick is in Nicaragua for a 3-day visit to discuss bilateral affairs with the Sandinist government.

Bondevick met with Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto, Supreme Electoral Council President Mariano Fiallos Oyanguren, and Agricultural Minister Jaime Wheelock.

Norway aids Nicaragua with approximately $7 million annually, particularly for food-raising projects.

The Norwegian foreign minister expressed his interest in learning the Nicaraguan Government's views regarding the peace process in Central America. He will also have an opportunity to observe the Nicaraguan election process.

Norway Increases Aid

PA1401044390 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 13 Jan 90 pp 1, 4

[Text] The Government of Norway has increased its economic aid to Nicaragua from 81.5 to 85 million kroner per year (some $13 million) for the 1990-1992 period, plus additional aid for a more or less similar

amount, sources close to Norwegian Foreign Minister Kjell Magne Bondevik reported yesterday.

The agreement between both governments was signed during a meeting that was convened for this purpose last November, and it was ratified yesterday during Foreign Minister Bondevik's visit.

Part of the Norwegian aid, up to a maximum of 34.5 million kroner, will be used for the purchase of fertilizers, equipment, technical assistance, and scholarships to develop the country's agriculture.

Another part of the aid, up to a maximum of 43.8 million kroner, will be allocated for the development of the fishing industry and crustacean resources.

In addition, 4 million kroner were allocated for the development of energy resources, and 2.7 million for miscellaneous purposes.

In other areas of cooperation, the Norwegian Government approved an additional 35.7 million kroner for the purchase of supplies and necessary spare parts for the Economic Adjustment Plan presented by Nicaragua at a meeting held in Stockholm in May.

With the additional funds allocated for the program, nongovernment organizations approved certain projects such as Norwegian volunteer services, emergency aid, and the allocation of funds for cultural, womens', research, and scholarship programs for a total of 53.5 million Norwegian kroner.

Norwegian aid will also benefit the electoral process. A total of 3.5 million kroner in aid was approved for the preparation of elections.

Oil Supply for Next 6 Months Guaranteed

PA1301193090 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1730 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Text] Managua, 12 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—Official sources have reported that the Nicaraguan Government guaranteed today that the country has oil for the next 6 months.

Ricardo Melendez, director of the Nicaraguan Petroleum Enterprise (PETRONIC) reported that the Sandinist authorities will import 390,000 tons of crude oil from the USSR and Cuba to cover consumption for 6 months.

The sources explained that the government is taking measures to obtain the remaining 310,000 tons of oil that are needed for the remainder of 1990 from the Bulgarian, GDR, and Hungarian Governments.

The Sandinist official said that the Nicaraguan oil financial outlay stands at $130 million, enough to meet the 700,000 tons of crude oil demand.

Panama

Arias Views U.S. Aid, Hunt for Noriega Aide

PA1201152790 Panama City Circuito RPC Radio in Spanish 1230 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Text] First Vice President and Government and Justice Minister Ricardo Arias Calderon has stated that the whereabouts of former Colonel Luis "Papo" Cordoba are still unknown, adding that an operation has been launched to locate him.

He also referred to Mrs. Felicidad Sieiro de Noriega's case. The first vice president and minister of government and justice said the government will not be able to grant her safe conduct if charges are filed against her.

[Begin recording] [Arias Calderon] There was a time when we had information that [Luis Cordoba] was at the Peruvian Embassy. The Peruvian Embassy has announced, and we think it is a positive announcement, that it could not grant political asylum to a person who is really a criminal. We do not know where he is right now, but he is being sought.

[Reporter] Doctor, what is the latest information about Mrs. Felicidad Sieiro de Noriega's case?

[Arias Calderon] She is a citizen, and if charges are filed against her at the Attorney General's Office, she will be treated like any other person who has charges filed against him.

[Reporter] Dr. Arias Calderon, will safe conduct be issued for her?

[Arias Calderon] The national government cannot issue a safe-conduct pass if she is charged with having committed some type of crime.

[Reporter] Dr. Arias Calderon Calderon, you have said Panama needs $1.5 billion for its reconstruction. Nevertheless, there are U.S. Senators who say that Panama cannot expect that economic aid for the time being because there are priorities for the new East European governments. What is the status of the Panamanian Government's negotiations with the U.S. Government for the aid that is needed?

[Arias Calderon] Second Vice President Guillermo Ford said on 11 Janaury that President Guillermo Endara has sent a personal letter to President Bush on Panama's need for cooperation, and we are sure it will be seriously considered. [end recording]

Bank Accounts of Noriega, Regime Members Frozen

PA1201172990 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1612 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Text] Panama City, 12 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—Banking sources today reported that the Attorney General's Office has ordered banks to freeze the accounts of General Manuel Antonio Noriega, his family, including

his 4-month-old grandson, and of approximately 200 members of his regime, including former Presidents Manuel Solis Palma and Francisco Rodriguez.

The list of 222 names sent by the Attorney General's Office to the banks is headed by the ousted general, who is currently being held in the United States on drug-trafficking charges.

The list also includes his wife, Felicidad Sieiro; his only grandson, Jean Manuel Beauchamp Noriega; his three daughters, Lorena, Thais, and Sandra; the Dominican husband of the latter, Jean Marie Beauchamp; and his mistress, Victoria Amado.

Noriega's wife, daughters, son-in-law, and grandson took refuge in the Cuban Embassy, which has yet to receive an answer to its request for safe conduct for them to travel to the Dominican Republic, which has granted them asylum.

The accounts of more than 100 military men of the defunct Defense Forces, which had been headed by Noriega, have also been frozen. This includes almost all of the general staff and Lieutenant Colonel Aquilino Sieiro and Major Manuel Sieiro, brothers-in-law of Noriega.

In addition to former Presidents Solis Palma and Rodriguez, the civilians on the list also include former Vice President Carlos Ozores, former Attorney General Olmedo Miranda, and former Ministers Renato Pereira, Rolando Murgas, Mario Rognoni, and Rodolfo Chiari.

It also includes Yolanda Pulice de Rodriguez, president of the Electoral Tribunal, and former Supreme Court President Marisol Reyes de Vasquez.

Former boxing champion Eusebio Pedroza is also on the lengthy list.

Like the Noriega family, several of those affected by the Attorney General's Office have taken refuge in the embassies of Cuba, Nicaragua, Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador, and the Vatican, while others are being held on U.S. military bases in the canal area.

After the 20 December U.S. military invasion, lawsuits and charges of various types have been filed at the Attorney General's Office against those who appear in the list.

Attorney General Rogelio Cruz said on 10 January that up to that day, more than 150 individual or joint suits had been filed against military men and civilians linked to the previous regime.

The rash of accusations after the U.S. invasion has even included individuals who in recent years had distanced themselves from Noriega, such as former President Aristides Royo, who lives in Spain, and Juan Materno Vasquez, former Supreme Court president and former minister.

Soldiers Reportedly Detain Cuban Ambassador's Car

PA1401204890 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1948 GMT 14 Jan 90

[Text] Panama City, 14 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—Cuban Ambassador to Panama Lazaro Mora and three other Cuban diplomats have been "detained" at a roadblock across from the embassy by U.S. and Panamanian soldiers who have insisted upon searching his automobile, diplomatic sources have reported.

Cuban Consul General Jose Luis Mendez told ACAN-EFE that the ambassador left in his automobile with advisers Luis Delfin Perez and Tomas Martin Cala, and diplomatic attache Pedro Camacho, but were "detained" by the troops who have demanded to search the vehicle's interior.

The source added that the diplomats' passports are in the hands of the U.S. and Panamanian troops who maintain a roadblock a few meters from the embassy building in downtown Panama City.

Mendez said that the soldiers have insisted upon searching the automobile of the ambassador, who was heading for his residence, although it bears a diplomatic license plate.

Important former officials, collaborators, soldiers, even relatives of General Manuel Antonio Noriega, including his wife Felicidad Sieiro, and his daughters Sandra, Lorena, and Thais, have taken refuge inside the Cuban Embassy.

Cuban Embassy Terms U.S. Actions 'Provocation'

PA1501144590 Havana International Service in Spanish 1400 GMT 15 Jan 90

[Text] Some 200 people, supported by the U.S. occupation forces, staged a demonstration on 14 January in front of the residence of the Cuban ambassador in Panama, where a group of politicians have sought refuge, waiting for safe conduct so they can leave the country.

The demonstrators threw stones at the residence and painted slogans offensive to the Cuban revolution on the walls. On 14 January U.S. troops detained Cuban Ambassador Lazaro Mora and two other Cuban officials for 1 and ½ hours. The U.S. troops, who have placed concertina wiring and checkpoints at the entrance to the Cuban diplomatic mission, withheld the passports of Mora and political advisers Luis Delfin and Martin Cala. The Cuban Embassy in Panama termed these actions a new provocation that violates international laws dealing with diplomatic immunity.

Penal Judge Rejects Solis' Bond Request

PA1201184190 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 12 Jan 90 p 16

[Text] Penal Judge Albino Alain on 11 January rejected a request to post bond on behalf of former President

Manuel Solis Palma so he would not be arrested. However, Solis will appeal this decision through his lawyers.

Solis, accused of crimes against the public, was summoned by the Attorney General's Office twice but he failed to show up; instead, a request was made to post bond on his behalf so he would not be arrested.

Judge Alain's rejection is based on the fact that the crime Solis is accused of is punishable with a sentence of more than 5 years and the law bans a person who is charged with this crime from bail.

If this appeal is rejected, the Attorney General's Office will issue an arrest warrant for Solis and he will be taken to court to answer for crimes committed during the dictatorship of Manuel Antonio Noriega.

Solis Palma Seeking Refuge at Venezuelan Embassy

PA1301201390 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1918 GMT 13 Jan 90

[Text] Panama City, 13 Jan (ACAN - EFE)—A source close to the Solis Palma family today reported that former Panamanian President Manuel Solis Palma has sought refuge at the Venezuelan Embassy in Panama City.

The source, who requested anonymity, told ACAN - EFE that Solis Palma came to this decision after "numerous consultations" with friends, family members, and lawyers, and because he believes that "a situation has been created making it impossible for him to appear before Panamanian justice."

It has not been possible to contact the Venezuelan Embassy.

Solis Palma did not attend the two summons issued during the past few days by Panamanian Attorney General Rogelio Cruz who has received several charges which have been presented by Panamanian lawyers.

The plaintiffs have accused Solis Palma of "hindering the formation, operation, and reorganization of the state organizations."

Solis Palma was appointed minister in charge of the Presidency on 26 February 1988 to replace Eric Arturo Delvalle, who was overthrown following a foiled attempt to remove General Manuel Antonio Noriega from the office of commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces.

A judicial official said on 12 Janauary that Solis Palma does not have a right to request bail and that he could be sentenced to 15 years in prison.

According to Panamanian laws, only those persons charged with crimes that entail sentences under 5 years can request bail.

The judicial official added that Solis Palma could face arrest if he did not show up at the third summons, scheduled for next week.

Approximately 50 civilian and military supporters of the former regime sought refuge at several Latin American Embassies following the U.S. invasion of Panama and the overthrow of Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega's regime.

On several occasions, Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez has said that he will not recognize the Panamanian Government headed by Guillermo Endara as long as the U.S. troops that invaded the country on 20 December to overthrow the Noriega regime remain in Panama.

Editorial Notes Need for U.S. Troop Presence

PA1201195890 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 12 Jan 90 p 1A

["As of Today" editorial—all quotation marks as published]

[Text] In an open letter to the sister people of Panama," President Oscar Arias says that the U.S. occupation must end as soon as possible. Other dignitaries, perhaps with other intentions, have gone on record in a similar way, as has the OAS. In theory, all, including the U.S. Government, agree on the convenience of a rapid U.S. troop withdrawal from territory under Panamanian jurisdiction. What some people do not know and try to forget is that Panama still does not have a force sufficiently trained, educated, and equipped to fully take over the regular tasks of maintaining public order and even less the task of neutralizing the paramiltary forces of the former Defense Forces and the Dignity Battalions, who are waiting for the right moment to attack the new government, its institutions, and its dignitaries. However given the distressing circumstances the country is going through, U.S. troops will not be able to withdraw as soon as possible," as some demand. The troop withdrawal must be gradual, as the new Public Force acquires the capacity and organization to take over its responsibilities. U.S. troops arrived in Panama to liberate it and cannot fully withdraw until they are sure that their absence will not dissolve Panama into an anarchy, losing all that has been gained until now.

Stones Thrown at Peruvian Embassy in Protest

PA1301015190 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0057 GMT 13 Jan 90

[Text] Panama City, 12 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—Some 150 people threw stones at the Peruvian Embassy in Panama City today to protest the presence at the embassy of 12 refugees closely linked to former General Manuel Antonio Noriega.

Residents of a nearby neighborhood gathered in front of the embassy shouting slogans against the military and

civilian refugees, whom they shouted should be "shot," and against the Peruvian Government for granting them asylum.

The demonstrators, who broke the windshields of some vehicles passing in front of the embassy, were forced away from the front of the embassy by members of the Public Force and U.S. soldiers.

The Panamanians who sought shelter at the Peruvian Embassy are Major Edgardo Lopez Grimaldo, spokesmen of the former Defense Forces; Major Gonzalo Gonzalez, chief of the elite "Macho de Monte" Company; Noriega's former secretary, Marcela Tason; Captain Narcisa Castillero; Major Heraclides Sucre; and seven relatives of the above-mentioned people.

Sucre was charged today by Attorney General Rogelio Cruz with being involved in the assassination of Major Moises Giroldi, who promoted a foiled coup against Noriega on 3 October 1989.

Peruvian President Alan Garcia today expressed his willingness to protect the former Noriega aides who sought shelter at the Peruvian Embassy in Panama "as long as necessary".

Peru announced on 9 January that it has granted asylum to five Panamanian military men and seven of their relatives. The Panamanian Government said on 12 January that it will not grant safe conduct for these people, whom it considers "common criminals," to leave the country.

The U.S. Government on 11 January said the Public Force is in charge of guarding the Peruvian Embassy and pointed out that the solution to the crisis posed by the presence of the refugees should be handled by the Governments of Panama and Peru.

The Peruvian president said today that the Government of Panamanian President Guillermo Endara is "unlawful." He added that Panama is being ruled by "the State Department, the Pentagon, the Southern Command, and the U.S. troops."

More on Protest

PA1301164690 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 13 Jan 90 p 1

[Report by Manolo Alvarez Cedeno]

[Text] Some 150 persons picketed and threw stones at the Peruvian Embassy on 12 January. The demonstrators demanded that former Panama Defense Forces [FDP] Major Edgardo Lopez Grimaldo and others closely linked to the former military regime who sought refuge at the embassy be asked to leave the mission.

The demonstrators shouted slogans against Noriega and threw some stones. They broke the rear windshields of two diplomatic vehicles parked in front of the embassy: a white Mitsubishi, license plates CD-325, and a red Mitsubishi, license plates CD-142.

"Grimaldo...coward killer, come out and show your face," the crowd shouted while the U.S. soldiers guarding the mission gently moved them in the direction of the sidewalk across the street. Some eight members of the new Panamanian Public Force, also guarding the embassy, did not intervene.

Despite the shouts demanding "justice and prison" for Noriega's followers, no one came out of the embassy located on "F" Street, El Cangrejo, a middle-class neighborhood in Panama City.

Major Gonzalo Gonzalez, commander of the elite "Macho de Monte" Company that foiled the 3 October coup against Noriega; Heraclides Sucre, who has been identified as one of the two officers who "shot" Moises Giroldi; and Marcela Tason, Noriega's personal secretary; are also at the embassy with Lopez Grimaldo, who was the spokesman for the dismantled FDP.

Approximately 40 U.S. soldiers, supported by an armored personnel carrier and three "Hummer" armored vehicles, are guarding the Peruvian Embassy.

At the time of the demostrations, residents in nearby buildings waved white handerchiefs, and banged pots and pans, and empty cans. A similar situation was occurring on the street.

One of the demonstrators told LA PRENSA: "We will stay here until they come out because they must pay for their crimes; we will come back here every afternoon."

The U.S. soldiers cordoned off the area with concertina wire while a group of people "booed" them for doing this.

Crusade Leader Warns Against Relying on Aid

PA1201164190 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 12 Jan 90 p1

[Article by Juan Pritsiolas]

[Text] Dr. Carlos Ernesto Gonzalez de la Lastra, one of the top Civic Crusade leaders, has urged the government and the Panamanian people to wake up from the "dream" that the country's problems are going to be solved with the U.S. "gift of money."

Gonzalez De la Lastra, who returned to the country on 9 Janaury following a period in exile ordered by General Manuel Antonio Noriega's regime, said it is "a big mistake for the government to harbor too many hopes about U.S. aid."

According to this Civic Crusade leader, Panama is going through a "profound economic crisis" that cannot be solved with the gift of moeny, but through the work of every Panamanian and the creation of a productive structure that will take advantage of the country's geographic position.

He added that the United States "operates in accordance with its own interests, which, many times, are not the

same as those of other nations. Consequently, he noted, we must overcome the "euphoria of having gotten rid of the tyrant" and should work to make the country progress.

He stated that Panama must exploit its canal by developing assembly plants in the reverted areas to create jobs for its citizens.

De La Lastra, exiled twice and arrested seven times, maintained that if the government is unable to establish "a structure for production" the country may "fall in a vacuum," therefore, this is the moment for the leaders of this administration to roll up their "sleeves" and get to work.

Torrijists To Resist 'U.S. Occupation'

PA1601024390 Paris AFP in Spanish 0113 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] Panama City, 15 Jan (AFP)—Followers of Omar Torrijos and Torrijist leaders today announced the formation of a movement to resist the U.S. occupation of Panama. They reported that soldiers loyal to Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega were executed by the invading forces.

In a letter delivered to AFP, leader Ramiro Vasquez Chambonnet said from an unidentified location: "The Torrijist movement is intact and ready for the struggle. The members will be reorganized. This is exactly the source of concern of the U.S. Army in Panama."

Vasquez Chambonnet is a well known leader of the Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD], which was founded by the late General Omar Torrijos. In 1968, Torrijos initiated a nationalist revolution, the greatest achievement of which was the negotiation of a new Canal Treaty with the United States. The revolution concluded with the ousting of General Manuel Antonio Noriega on 20 December.

Vasquez said that the Noriega regime fell because Noriega's "leadership was weak and alienated from the masses."

Vasquez said, however, that "the U.S. aggression...has not succeeded in defeating Torrijism or the people's movement," which is "regrouping to resist the U.S. Army and the Panamanian oligarchy."

In his letter, consisting of seven handwritten pages, Vasquez did not say whether the resistance movement will be of a political or armed nature.

Panamanian Vice President Ricardo Arias Calderon said last week that he thinks rebellious groups might appear. He added that he possesses reports on the existence of arms caches.

Vasquez said that the U.S. invasion of Panama "has unleashed a true rainfall of fire and extermination on the people." Despite this, he said, "the fighting lasted more than 3 days in various points of the country."

Vasquez pointed out that survivors of the elite battalion Macho de Monte were executed once they were captured and that at the Coco Solo U.S. Navy Base "many of the bodies holes in the napes of their necks and temples where a coup de grace had been administered."

The Torrijist leader said that the "invading infantry" did not directly clash with the Panamanian Defense Forces [FDP] but that "wave after wave of bombs and shells rained down for 6 hours."

Vasquez said that once the massacre ended, "the seeking out of the revolutionary leaders and patriots" started. These men are the ones able to "raise the banner of resistance and national dignity."

Over the weekend, the Catholic Church said that 655 Panamanians, a figure slightly higher than that acknowledged by the United States, had died in hospitals as a result of the invasion.

Vasquez said, however, that "there is sufficient evidence" to show that "thousands have been reported missing or are buried in common graves."

Newspapers have reported that there are still small groups of Dignity Battalions and FDP members in mountainous areas of Panama.

Concerning the new government and the reasons to combat it, the letter said: "The United States imposed in power the oligarchy linked to the financial system and the far rightists of the Christian Democratic Party."

The leader pointed out that "the new authorities hold power because of both the blood shed by thousands of Panamanians, many of them innocent, and the bayonets of the invading army."

Vasquez predicted that 30,000 government employees will be removed to meet the demands of international finance organizations. He finally said there would be a "drama of desolation of unpredictable consequences" now that the army has been dissolved.

University Denies Existence of Weapons on Campus

PA1201181690 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 12 Jan 90 pp A1, B8

[Communique issued by the University of Panama's Academic Council on 10 January]

[Text] The University of Panama's Academic Council deems it necessary to explain to the local public, especially the university community, that charges on the possible existence of weapons in our institution are unfounded.

The University of Panama categorically states that each school, institute, research unit, or administrative office has been carefully inspected by the deans or directors

who, accompanied by professors, as well as administrative and security personnel, drafted documents attesting that there are no weapons or military materiel in our installations.

The Academic Council has recommended to the rector that—in accordance with that which is stated in Article 4 of Law 11 issued in 1981 on the University—he should ask the national government to appoint a commission made up of competent civilian authorities who, together with university authorities, will conduct new inspections of the campus, the regional centers, and university extension offices to testify that what has been said is true.

The Academic Council is currently studying, with full responsibility and understanding, the country's delicate situation, which directly affects the learning process and is the reason for the temporary suspension of university classes.

Issued on the Dr. Octavio Mendez Pereira University Campus on 10 January 1990
Dr. Abdiel J. Adames, rector

'Paramilitary Men' Attack Citizen in Chiriqui

PA1301152890 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 13 Jan 90 p 1A

[Report by Alberto Villarreal]

[Text] David—A number of paramilitary men who supported the previous government and who are roaming about in Chiriqui Province broke into the home of Francisco Guerra, father of alternate legislator Cornelio Guerra.

Apparently the five men beat up Guerra brutally, threatened to kill him and his family, and stole several hundred dollars.

The men carried AK-47 rifles, had their faces covered with nylon stockings, and are believed to be members of the now defunct Dignity Battalions that supported ex-dictator Noriega.

Although the possibility of this being a political action has not been ruled out, authorities are looking into the incident and trying to determine the attackers' whereabouts.

Airport Director Fabrega Views Reopening

PA1201163690 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 12 Jan 90 p 12A

[Report by Nubia Aparicio S.]

[Text] Jaime Fabrega, director of the Omar Torrijos Herrera International Airport, has told LA PRENSA that, at the latest, the airport will be ready to function in 24 hours.

According to Fabrega, he has tried to reopen the airport on several occasions but each time the U.S. authorities have prevented this, arguing that "someone can escape."

U.S. Army spokesmen have on several occasions released lists of officers and political supporters of ousted General Noriega whose whereabouts are unknown and whose departure from the country is feared.

According to Fabrega, the airport could be ready to operate at any moment "but the U.S. authorities have made the reopening of not only the Omar Torrijos Airport but also the Paitilla airport a real obstacle." The airport, like the rest of the country, is being protected by U.S. troops following the 20 December invasion of Panama. According to U.S. sources, the troops might remain in the country from 6 months to 1 year, until the situation is back to normal.

Argentina

Menem on Panama; Declines Comment on Falklands

PY1501172490 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Marta Lopez will now file her second report on a news conference that President Carlos Menem held with foreign correspondents at Government House this morning. As we reported earlier, the president discussed the Panama issue and the umbrella arrangement on the issue of Malvinas Islands sovereignty, to which both sides have agreed. We have the remarks by President Menem:

[Begin recording] [Menem] What I want to tell you is that I received a phone call from Mr. Bush after the invasion, and I clearly told him that this action would cause problems. If he informs me.... [changes thought] If the invasion of Nicaragua that you are announcing actually takes place, and if Mr. Bush informs me about it before the invasion begins, my reply will obviously be the same; it will be the same. Regarding the U.S. attitude, we have issued a communique. The Argentine Foreign Ministry, like all Latin American foreign ministries, has adopted a position. What else can we do?

We will continue to talk and we will continue to discuss the possibility of Panama democratically electing its authorities; not the way the current president assumed power. We do not agree with this method, and everyone knows that.

[Announcer] Eugenio Perez Lezcano of Australian Radio and Television will ask the last question.

[Lezcano] Good morning, Mr President. First of all, on 8 July, when we met...

[Menem, interrupting] Were you there, too?

[Lezcano] Sure! When we met in Olivos...

[Menem, interrupting] When I told you that you were not Australian. [laughs]

[Lezcano] A good joke that indicates the president's good sense of humor. Mr. President, on 8 July you mentioned the umbrella [preceding word in English] the sovereignty umbrella that marked the beginning of a new stage in the negotiations with Great Britain. That stage is now over...

[Menem, interrupting] No, no, not yet.

[Lezcano] Well, progress is being made; relations have reached the consular level and will progress to the ambassadorial level. What is the next effective step with this umbrella mechanism, considering that the objective of President Menem's government—at least in my opinion—is the full restoration of sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands? What is the next step in this famous umbrella, which has already...

[Menem, interrupting] My Australian friend [laughs], I want to tell you and answer your question with the same reply I gave to someone to whom I mentioned what General Peron used to call the art of conducting. There are things that can be said and things that cannot be said. Excuse me, but I cannot or do not want to answer your question. I do not mean I can't, but I do not want to. Please excuse me.

[Lezcano] I understand, thank you. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Chile

Carvajal Confirms Purchase of Israeli Materiel

PY1201141890 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2201 GMT 11 Jan 90

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 11 Jan (EFE)—Defense Minister Patricio Carvajal has confirmed that Chile is negotiating with Israel the purchase of military equipment. Vice Admiral Carvajal said that this purchase totals $500 million and it is "a long-term project."

This information was published on 10 January by the Lebanese newspaper "Al Hayat" and was carried in Chile by the EFE news agency.

In a statement to Santiago newspaper "LA TERCERA", Vice Adm Carvajal said that the negotiations with Israel "should not alarm anyone."

He added that the Armed Forces always request quotations to be informed of new development.

Carvajal also said these negotiations do not mean that Chile has a huge military purchase program. He said these acquisitions are to ensure that the Armed Forces can conduct their normal activities.

The Lebanese newspaper states that Israel will sell "Falcon" planes to Chile and that it will cooperate in installing a radar manufacturing factory in Chile.

Carvajal said that the Chilean Navy has some Falcon planes that are used for patrolling the 200-mile territorial waters, but he said these planes are not a modified version of the Boeing 707 as was reported by the Lebanese newspaper.

PCCh Announces End of Rebellion of Masses

PY1501022690 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1630 GMT 14 Jan 90

[Text] Santiago, 14 Jan (EFE)—The Chilean Communist Party [PCCh] has announced the end of its policy of rebellion of the masses. The PCCh has promoted this policy for the past 10 years to combat the military regime of General Augusto Pinochet.

The announcement was made by Gladys Marin, who was the main speaker at a ceremony that the PCCh held last night to close the celebration of its 68th anniversary.

This is Marin's first public appearance after 17 years of life in exile and underground activities. Marin is the former Chilean Communist Youth secretary general and a former deputy. She said the renewal of the Chilean Communists is not new, that it began several years ago, and that it was the cause of several crises within the organization.

Marin added that the popular rebellion of the masses was an obligation during the Pinochet regime and it was not a mere tactic to confront the dictatorship apparatus.

Marin said that promoting the rebellion of the masses "opened a path and guided our political activities." She added that it is obvious that the PCCh cannot maintain this policy during the democratic government of President-Elect Patricio Aylwin.

Marin said that the PCCh will become an "organization of the masses that is open, active, and flexible," to win the right to be members of the leadership of the nation.

She denied that the PCCh seeks to establish the dictatorship of the proletariat by stating that "this is not the proper term to describe the democratic force that guides a revolution."

According to Gladys Marin, the new PCCh policies will be discussed in detail during a national party conference.

She reasserted that the PCCh will help the Patricio Aylwin administration and that it will support everything that will lead to the strengthening of democracy.

Yesterday, thousands of people went to a Santiago soccer stadium to attend the PCCh anniversary ceremony called "Festival of the Great Promenades, Long Live the People."

Before the speeches were made, there were several shows, including Mexican singer Amparo Ochoa, Chilean Isabel Parra, and the groups Illapu and Congreso.

There were also special guests, such as Soviet citizens Igor Rivalkin and Lena Karpujina; Milton Jijon, the Ecuadoran Communist Party secretary general; and Uruguayan Communist Party leader Pedro Toledo.

Also present were Brazilian Communist Party leader Roberto Freire and Argentine Communist Party leader Felix Marcos.

Colombia

'War Tax' Slated To Finance War on Crime

PA1201202290 Paris AFP in Spanish 0608 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Text] Bogota, 11 Jan (AFP)—A so-called "war tax," whereby the largest taxpayers will contribute 15 billion pesos (approximately $34 million) to finance the state's fight against subversion, drug trafficking, and organized crime, was enacted in Colombia today.

The legislation, signed into law by President Virgilio Barco, stipulates that businessmen and corporations will acquire special financing bonds for this amount, which represents 5 percent of total 1989 income and complementary taxes.

The law increased by 50 billion pesos the amount for which the government can lend or guarantee domestic public loans. It also authorizes the issuance of national savings certificates for as much as 85 billion pesos, and an increase in foreign indebtedness by $2.5 billion over the coming 2 years.

In addition, the law increases the capital of the National Electric Financing Corporation by $200 million and creates the so-called Colombia Fund, through which foreign investors can purchase shares of national corporations. Finally, the legislation stipulates that the money received from foreign lenders cannot be used to defray operational expenditures.

Ministry Orders Arrest of Cali Cartel Chieftain

PA1401205990 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1943 GMT 14 Jan 90

[Text] Bogota, 14 Jan (EFE)—The Colombian Justice Ministry has issued a warrant for the arrest of Gilberto Rodriguez Orejuela, the "Cali Cartel's No. 1 man," to all the country's authorities, it was reported today. Rodriguez Orejuela, known as "El Ajedrecista" is sought by U.S Federal Courts in Georgia and Florida, and the U.S. Embassy in Bogota has submitted an extradition request, the Colombian newspaper EL TIEMPO reported today. The Cali and Medellin Cartels are accused of introducing 80 percent of the cocaine consumed in the United States.

According to the report, Rodriguez Orejuela is accused of introducing over 20 tons of cocaine into the United States. "El Ajedrecista" is also considered the chief cocaine supplier to New York and the U.S. East Coast. The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has said that Rodriguez Orejuela handles "a complex network to launder money" from his cocaine dealings. Gilberto Rodriguez Orejuela was arrested in Spain in 1983, along with Jorge Luis Ochoa Vasquez of the Medellin Cartel. They were extradited in 1984 to Colombia, where judges in Cartagena de Indias and Cali released them on bail. Since then, Rodriguez Orejuela has been a fugitive from justice. Beginning in 1988, he declared "war" on the Medellin Cartel, taking aim at

Pablo Escobar Gaviria over control of the New York drug markets, a war that has claimed over 300 victims in Colombia between the two organizations.

Unidentified Group Kidnaps 31 in Uraba Region

PA1601004290 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0012 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] Bogota, 15 January (DPA)—In an action that is unprecedented in Colombia's history of violence, unidentified persons kidnapped 31 people in the strife-torn banana-growing region of Uraba, the Antiouqia governor's office reported today.

The incident took place in Puerto Bello, a village in Turbo Municipality, 460 km northwest of Bogota, where a group of heavily armed men forced the kidnapped villagers to climb into trucks and then took off for an unknown destination. Nothing is known thus far about the motive behind the kidnapping or the whereabouts of the victims.

Regional authorities who escaped being kidnapped took a census of the population and determined that a total of 31 people were kidnapped. Before fleeing, the commando group set fire to a grocery store and caused some damage in the small town.

Uraba, a prosperous agro-industrial region in Colombia, has been racked for years by a bloody political struggle between guerrilla groups and ultrarightist paramilitary bands, which have been blamed for various massacres of peasants whom they accused of being guerrilla sympathizers.

Before the news of the mass kidnapping became known, the total of persons kidnapped in Colombia over the last 6 weeks was 85, according to statistics of the Colombian secret police.

Police Arrest Suspected Peruvian Drug Trafficker

PA1201193490 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1904 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Text] Bogota, 12 Jan (DPA)—It was reported in Bogota today that the Colombian Army captured suspected Peruvian drug trafficker Jose Cardenas Guerra on a farm in Purificacion, in central Colombia. Cardenas Guerra is apparently linked to the Medellin drug cartel.

The soldiers found Cardenas Guerra with several workers of the farm, which, according to the investigations, was owned by Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, who was killed during a police operation on 15 December.

Official spokesmen indicated that the troops did not meet any resistance from the suspected mafia members who were carrying firearms.

Cardenas Guerra was transferred from Purificacion to the secret police offices in Ibague, capital of Tolima Department, 130 km southwest of Bogota.

Peru

Further on Explosions at U.S. Embassy Facility

PY1601133890 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1321 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] Ten terrorists hurled dynamite sticks at U.S. embassy facilities in the Miraflores district, causing serious damage but fortunately no casualties. The attack took place at 2100 on 15 January [0100 GMT on 16 Jan].

Inside the facility, which was guarded by 3 security officers, a group of embassy officials were holding a work meeting.

According to the first police reports, the attack was staged by 10 terrorists who used 2 Toyota cars which were later abandoned. One of the vehicles was left on the third block of Jose Pardo Avenue, while the other was left on the first block of Bella Vista Street in Miraflores.

Bomb Attack Near Residence of U.S. Diplomats

PA1601043490 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0343 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] Lima, 15 Jan (EFE)—The Peruvian police have reported that an attack with explosives in front of a building where U.S. diplomats reside in the Miraflores neighborhood in Lima has left one person injured.

The terrorist attack was launched from a moving vehicle, from which unidentified individuals threw three dynamite charges that injured a passerby and damaged the front of the building, according to the police.

The police source indicated that those responsible for the crime have not yet been identified. The source noted that in 1984, the first attack on U.S. interests was carried out by the Guevarist Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement, when activists from that group fired at the front of the U.S. Embassy in downtown Lima.

A car bomb exploded in front of the U.S. Embassy residence in the Peruvian capital 3 years later, and after that, explosives were hurled at the door of a house in the San Borja neighborhood, where U.S. Marines resided.

MRTA Claims Murder of Enrique Lopez Albujar

PY1201133090 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Jan 90

[Text] The MRTA [Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement] today distributed leaflets claiming responsibility for the murder of former Defense Minister Enrique Lopez Albujar.

General Osvaldo Diaz Salvador, Chief of the 7th subregion of the National Police, has confirmed the existence of these leaflets, and added that the murder case is still being investigated. He said that among the thousands of detainees there are 16 suspects who are believed to have participated in the murder of the outstanding general.

[Begin recording] [Diaz Salvador] Well, there are two operations. First, the dragnet operation, in which people with the characteristics established by witnesses are arrested, and second, there is a more specific operation being conducted by the specialized units.

[Reporter] Is there any information yet regarding the capture of the murderers of the former defense minister?

[Diaz Salvador] These operations seek to clear up both a crime that has shocked the nation and also the killing of two patrolmen who were murdered in cold blood the day before the general was murdered.

[Reporter] Do the police have identikits of the murderers?

[Diaz Salvador] We have received some identikits of people who could have participated in the attack from the specialized units of the technical police. Based on these identikits the police will be more specific and selective.

[Reporter] How many identikits do you have so far?

[Diaz Salvador] So far we have received three identikits.

[Reporter] The murder is attributed to MRTA and not to the Shining Path. What news do the have on this?

[Diaz Salvador] I believe the intelligence services will have the final word on this.

[Reporter] Is it true that the MRTA has claimed responsibility for the murder?

[Diaz Salvador] Well, we all know that some leaflets have appeared today inside a newspaper that claims to be the mouthpiece on this matter, but I do not think this is final. [end recording]

Venezuela

Perez Willing To Grant Asylum to Solis Palma

PA1401191490 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1740 GMT 14 Jan 90

[Text] Caracas, 14 Jan (EFE)—Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez announced today that his government is willing to grant asylum to former Panamanian President Manuel Solis Palma, who took refuge on 13 January in the Venezuelan Embassy in Panama.

Perez, although he said he still does not know the details of Solis Palma's status because the Foreign Ministry has not informed him officially as yet, said in Caracas that Venezuela is "devoted to the right of asylum."

The Venezuelan president noted that "we cannot deny asylum to anyone," because in such a matter "there cannot be any value judgment." Perez noted, however, that the possible granting of asylum to former President Solis Palma will be studied by his government because he does not know the status of the former president well.

The Venezuelan president condemned the situation of harassment to which the U.S. troops who invaded Panama are subjecting the Peruvian Embassy there.

"I have publicly voiced my concern, because we have seen how the bodies of international law, which have been created with so many difficulties throughout the world, are heading toward a void. This very greatly concerns us," Perez stated.

The Venezuelan president said that international law is basic, above all for the small and weak countries. He added that Venezuela cannot remain passive in the face of what is happening in Panama, involving the violation of the principles of self-determination of the peoples and the right of asylum.

Former President Advises Against Quayle Visit

PA1601122490 Paris AFP in Spanish 0508 GMT 16 Jan 90

[Text] Caracas, 15 Jan (AFP)—Former Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins (1979-84) in statements to newsmen here today said that a visit by U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle to Venezuela now "is not advisable."

The former Christian Democratic president stated that "by virtue of the resentment that currently exists toward the United States, Quayle's visit is not advisable. Prudence and discretion suggest that he not make the visit."

Representatives of the principal Venezuelan political parties last week described the visit as "improper" in view of "the serious setback" in Inter-American relations.

Herrera Campins voiced his support for granting political asylum to former Panamanian President Manuel Solis Palma, who has been in refuge since 12 January in the Venezuelan Embassy in Panama, noting that his country "has always greatly respected the right of asylum."

The former president said, however, he hopes that granting asylum to Solis Palma "will not provoke diplomatic incidents similar to those which have occurred in Panama of late," alluding to protests elicited by the refuge given to former officers who supported General Manuel Antonio Noriega at the Peruvian Embassy.

Military Informed of U.S. Naval Maneuvers

PA1001023190 Paris AFP in Spanish 0015 GMT 10 Jan 90

[Text] Caracas, 9 Jan (AFP)—The Venezuelan Armed Forces were informed on 3 January "as a manner of courtesy" of the U.S. Navy maneuvers off the Colombian coast, Venezuelan Defense Minister Division General Filmo Lopez Ucategui declared here today.

Lopez told reporters that they were informed by the U.S. State Department and officials of the U.S. Embassy in Caracas, and that they were invited to participate in these exercises.

"Of course we answered that we were not interested in participating in that type of mission," the minister added.

He said that, in essence, the Venezuelan Armed Forces were informed of the instructions by President George Bush to increase this "task force and to place it off the Colombian coasts with the idea of controlling air and sea movements to capture ocean vessels and to neutralize aircraft used by drug traffickers."

Lopez said that the number of vessels that make up the "U.S. cordon" can be increased from 5 or 6 to 15, including an aircraft carrier.

He said that any country can stage manuevers in international waters. "It does not represent any threat to Venezuela, but we do not think that such force should be maintained permanently off the coast of any country," he added.

The Venezuelan minister denied a Caracas press report that U.S. aircraft had overflown the Venezuelan archipelago of Los Monjes near the theater of operations of the "task force."

[Passage indistinct] his office or President Carlos Andres Perez were advised by Washington about these operations.